MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 MARCH 1983

Israel

Presidential Election -- The Knesset elected MK Hayim Herzog as president of Israel, Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor announced in a statement broadcast live from the Knesset by Jerusalem radio on 22 March. Herzog received 61 votes while government coalition candidate Menahem Elon obtained 57 votes. Prime Minister Menahem Begin described the result as "regrettable" but said Herzong should be congratulated, according to the radio.

Settlements Issue -- The Cabinet decided on 20 March to "civilianize" eight settlement outposts in "Judaea and Samaria," Jerusalem radio reported. The timing of the decision "has no connection" with "feelers" put out by Jordan's King Husayn to join the peace process, according to another radio report citing sources close to the settlement issue. A senior source on the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs stated that the decision will make it possible to prepare people for the new settlements and to plan their financing, the radio added.

Lebanon

Tripartite Negotiations -- Progress was made in discussions on mutual relations, but there is still a large gap between the Lebanese and Israeli positions on security arrangements for southern Lebanon, Jerusalem radio noted in a report on the outcome of the 21 March negotiations in Netanya. The next round of tripartite talks will focus on security arrangements and will be held at Netanya on 25 March, the radio said.

Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil subsequently met with presidential envoy Philip Habib, who conveyed Israel's response to the latest U.S. proposals, Voice of Lebanon radio reported on 22 March. Earlier, Foreign Minister Elie Salim said in a statement broadcast by the radio that the next 2 weeks will be a critical period that will show if Israel is genuinely interested in the points under discussion in the negotiations at Khaldah and Netanya. In remarks broadcast by Beirut radio, Salim said that if the United States is unable to convince Israel within 2 weeks of the credibility of Lebanon's undertaking to preserve security in its territory, Lebanon will suspect that Israel harbors objectives other than those under discussion at the negotiations. Salim also expressed belief that his good relations with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will help the withdrawal of foreign forces.

U.S.-Israeli Military Relations -- Israel has decided to share with the United States information and lessons learned by the IDF in the Lebanon war out of the belief that such information will be of great value and will further strengthen Israeli-U.S. relations, an Israeli Defense Ministry statement transmitted by ITIM announced. According to Jerusalem radio, Israel offered the information unconditionally and as a good-will gesture designed to improve bilateral relations. The information includes data on the capacity of the Soviet T-72 tank and the technology and tactics employed by Israel to destroy Soviet-made SAM's and aircraft, the radio noted. In a separate development Defense Minister Moshe Arens reiterated Israel's proposals for liaison arrangements between the IDF and the U.S. Marines in the Beirut area, according to a Jerusalem radio report on Arens' meeting with Philip Habib and other U.S. officials on 21 March.

Security Situation -- Five Israeli soldiers were wounded when their tank struck a mine in the Al-Biqa' valley, the Voice of Lebanon reported citing an Israeli spokesman. However, Jerusalem radio said the explosion caused no casualties.

Syria

Khaddam on Israeli Settlements -- Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has denied that Israel will swallow up the occupied Arab territories unless the Arabs join peace negotiations soon, asserting that every nail used to build settlements is a nail hammered into the coffin of Israel's long-term security, Damascus radio reported citing Khaddam's remarks to the London OBSERVER.

Koshoyev Visit -- Temirbek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, arrived in Damascus at the start of a weeklong visit, Damascus radio noted. Koshoyev said the Israeli campaign against Syria's new defense measures is aimed at finding a pretext to carry out a "new aggressive adventure" and to obtain additional military aid from the United States.

Clash Between Police, Iranian Tourists -- A clash occurred at Damascus International Airport between police and approximately 1,000 Iranian tourists who pasted Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's pictures on walls in the airport, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Fighting broke out during which rifle butts were used when the Iranians refused to comply with police orders to stop putting up the posters, the radio added.

PLO Affairs

PLO combat units have been ordered to step up their attacks both in "occupied Palestine" and Lebanon, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir announced in an interview with the JORDAN TIMES. He also made another offer concerning the eight Israeli POW's, saying the PLO is willing to exchange the prisoners for 1,000 Palestinian detainees. Differences between the PLO and Syria should be resolved, he said, and relations among the PLO, Jordan, and Syria should be strengthened.

In a 20 March interview with Budapest television Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf called on the Americans to recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination and to propose a referendum in which the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza would determine their political future. The PLO would accept the outcome of such a referendum, even if this resulted in a defeat for it, Khalaf affirmed. According to an MTI report on the interview, Khalaf also said "we should like a Palestinian state where we could gather all the Palestinians, but not at the cost of another people."

Egypt

The Chinese ambassador to Cairo affirmed that President Husni Mubarak's 1-4 April visit to the PRC will lead to the consolidation of bilateral relations. Mubarak will hold talks with the chairman of the State Council and meet with other Chinese leaders, Cairo radio reported. The envoy noted that this will be Mubarak's third visit to the PRC but the first by an Egyptian president since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the radio added.

Five Greek Orthodox bishops have been ordered to leave Egypt before 26 March, AFP reported citing informed sources. The sources added that the Greek Consulate filed a protest with Egyptian authorities over the decision, but the protest has not been answered and no explanation has been given for the expulsion order, AFP noted.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Negotiations to try to end the Iran-Iraq conflict will "open soon in Algiers," AFP announced citing the Turkish paper MILI GAZETE. Both Iran and Iraq have agreed on the conference agenda and Iran "is ready to recognize the Iraqi regime" but wants Iraq to pay part of some $50 billion in war damages, the paper added. Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti paper AL-ANBA' quoting reliable Arab sources reported that Indian Prime Minister Indira Ghandi will exert personal efforts to try to end the Iran-Iraq dispute.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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AFP: 'ARAFAT, SOVIET OFFICIAL MEET IN TUNIS

NC212029 Paris AFP in English 2012 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis, March 21 (AFP) -- Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Ilya Grinevskiy [name as received] had six hours of talks today with Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported. The agency said the talks covered "the latest developments in the Middle East, and notably those concerning the Palestinian cause."

Mr Grinevskiy was accompanied by an expert on Palestinian affairs at the Soviet Foreign Ministry and by Soviet Ambassador to Tunisia Vselovod Kizichenko, WAFA said. With Mr 'Arafat on the Palestinian side were the head of the PLO's Political Department Faruq Qaddumi, PLO Executive Committee member Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] and PLO representative in Tunis Hakam Balawi.

AL-WAZIR ON TIES WITH JORDAN, U.S. PEACE PLAN

JN210928 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Mar 83 p 1

[Interview with Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, by correspondent Lamis Andoni in Amman on 20 March]

[Text] Amman -- Resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers last month have left the door wide open for the Palestinian leadership to continue joint political moves with Jordan and the Arab world towards achieving a just and lasting settlement to the Palestine problem, a senior Palestinian leader said Sunday.

Khalil al-Wazir, the deputy commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) forces, said that "the 16th session of the PNC supported the ongoing talks between the PLO and Jordan and stressed the importance of strengthening mutual understanding and trust."

Mr. al-Wazir, better known as Abu Jihad, said there was consensus among all Palestinian factions within the PLO that relations with Jordan were "special" and that Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation constitutes a solid basis for any Arab political move towards realising a comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict.

Resolutions endorsed by the PNC, the equivalent of a Palestinian parliament in exile, last February emphasised "the special relations" between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and accepted a future Jordanian-Palestinian confederation after the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza.

Asked how the PLO defines "the special relation" with Jordan, the Palestinian leader said: "The Jordanian and Palestinian peoples have strong historical and brotherly ties and consequently their relationship is distinguished and special. This relationship is enhanced by the two peoples' joint commitment to liberate the occupied Arab land, and this joint commitment to achieve our national goals is the basis of the current discussions between the PLO and Jordan".

Abu Jihad is currently in Amman to participate in the sessions of the higher Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee for the support of the steadfastness of Palestinians in the occupied territories. The committee is made up of senior PLO and Jordanian Government officials and is in charge of rendering financial and moral support to the people in the West Bank and Gaza.

Abu Jihad stressed that the PLO is determined to explore all avenues leading to a Middle East peaceful settlement based upon meeting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

He outlined the PLO's position on the current search for peace in the area. "Our political moves and position on peace initiatives are determined by three measures," he said. "First, guarantees offered to the Palestinian people that ensure the achievement of our national goals including our right to establish an independent Palestinian state. Second, political moves that stem from a united and strong Arab position. And Third, practical American steps that would restore American credibility and that would make the Arabs trust U.S. intentions in any peace effort."

The Palestinian people's legitimate right to statehood and self-determination is a central issue in the Palestinian struggle, he said.

PLO officials and statements have repeatedly stated their rejection of any peace settlement that denies the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and statehood.

"Any political move by the PLO to achieve our national goals of freeing the occupied land and to establish an independent Palestinian state should depend on a strong and a united Arab position", Abu Jihad explained.

"Entering the peace process without the support of a united [position] is like going into a quagmire, and it will only lead to concessions from the Arab side," he said. "Consequently, the top priority for the PLO at this stage should be to exert all efforts to narrow the differences between Arab countries."

"In this context," Abu Jihad said, "we view the recent talks between Morocco and Algeria over the Western Sahara issue as a step forward in improving relations between the Arab countries."

Relations between Algeria and Morocco were strained due to their different stands on the future of the Western Sahara. While Algiers wanted the establishment of an independent state led by the Polisario front in the Western Sahara, Rabat held that the territory, which was under Spanish colonsisation, is a constituent part of Morocco. According to Abu Jihad recent talks have achieved "a substantial progress" towards resolving the misunderstanding between the two countries.

As for the third measure that determines the political moves of the PLO, Abu Jihad pointed out that his organisation does not trust the commitments and intentions of the U.S. Administration. "We shall never forget what happened in Sabra and Shatila," he said. The Palestinian leader produced documents which indicate that, according to the PLO departure plan engineered by U.S. envoy Philip Habib last August, the organisation was given guarantees on the part of the Americans to safeguard the Palestinian civilians who stayed in Lebanon.

Three weeks after the PLO forces' departure from Beirut and following the assassination of Lebanese President-elect Bashir al-Jumayyil, armed groups entered the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in West Beirut and slaughtered hundreds of Palestinian refugees. The findings of an Israeli commission of inquiry into the massacre, revealed last month, indicated that groups of right-wing Christian milita were the perpetrators of the massacre. The results of the inquiry led to the ouster of Israeli Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon, saying Israelis bore and indirect responsibility for the carnage.

The PLO has accused Israel of direct involvement in the massacre and severely attacked the U.S. of violating the guarantees to safe-guard Palestinian civilians left in Lebanon.

Abu Jihad said the current deadlock in the peace process in the Middle East stems from American inability to get the Israelis to withdraw from Lebanon and U.S. inability -- or unwillingness -- to bring about an Israeli freeze on Jewish settlements in the West Bank. "The U.S. even supports such Israeli action", Abu Jihad said.

"The PLO has not yet accepted the principle of negotiations," he said, "but judging from what is taking place in Lebanon, the PLO has no confidence in the U.S. ability or willingness to pressure Israel to change its obstinant position."

Israel is trying to impose a fait accompli in Lebanon in order to achieve it "expansionist goals," Abu Jihad said, although he agreed that through impeding the negotiations in Lebanon Israel is trying to "paralyse" the U.S. Administration and to prevent it from focusing on the other aspects of the Middle East problem.

Asked what he thinks about the American emphasis on the element of time, the Palestinian leader said "the U.S. Administration is stressing 'the element of time' to pressure and even to blackmail the Palestinians to join the peace negotiations under American conditions." He pointed out that the PLO is opposed to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land in part and parcel and hence the building of Israeli settlements does not change the fact that the West Bank and Gaza have been under occupation for the past 16 years.

The PLO condemns the building of Jewish settlements and warns against such dangerous actions, he said. "Nevertheless, that does not mean we are going to accept such blackmail by the Americans."

Asked about the Jordanian conditions to join the peace process as laid down by Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim in Beirut last month, Abu Jihad said these conditions are indeed very important but the PLO might have other, equally important "dimensions" to add, such as the PLO's role as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the right to establish an independent Palestinian state. The three conditions outlined by Mr. al-Qasim are an Israeli troop withdrawal from Lebanon, an Israeli freeze on Jewish settlements in the West Bank and an active Palestinian participation in the peace process.

What about U.S. President Ronald Reagan's peace proposals announced last Sept. 1? The PNC resolutions strongly criticised the Reagan proposals because "they deny the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people". The resolutions, which fell short of an outright rejection of the U.S. proposals, "refused" to consider them as "a basis for a just and lasting peace" for the Middle East conflict. However, the resolutions were the subject of different interpretations and were viewed by some Palestinian observers "to give enough room for the Palestinian leadership to move on the American front."

"The PNC resolutions left the door half open for the Reagan initiative", one senior Palestinian official told the JORDAN TIMES right after the conclusion of the PNC meeting.

Abu Jihad said, "The Reagan initiative said no to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, no to an independent Palestinian state and no to the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Moreover, what has President Reagan given to the Arabs? He wants them to accept proposals that do not measure up to their aspirations and yet fails to pressure Israel into withdrawing its army from Lebanon and bringing about a freeze on the Israeli settlements."

Since the U.S. President announced his proposals for a comprehensive Middle East settlement on Sept. 1, Jordan and the PLO have engaged in intensive talks on a proposed federation or confederation between Jordan and a freed West Bank and Gaza. In his peace initiative, the U.S. President called for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, with minor border adjustment, and for self-rule for the 1.25 million Palestinians living there in association with Jordan. The question of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian peace negotiating team, as called for by the U.S., was also raised at the talks, but no decision has been taken yet. Reports that the PLO was ready to accept the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian peace negotiating team in which the Palestinian representatives are not drawn from PLO members have repeatedly been denied by the organisation officials.

Asked whether this PLO stand means that the organisation is more interested in itself than the restoration of the occupied Arab land, Abu Jihad said that "there is no basis for such an accusation because the issue of the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the struggle for the liberation of the Israeli-occupied land are inseparable."

Referring to the PLO's relations with Syria that were strained after the invasion of Lebanon but were described as "strategic" by the PNC resolutions, Abu Jihad said that differences with Syria should be settled and relations should be strengthened.

"Despite the fact that our relations with Syria were strained after the war in Lebanon due to our different conceptions of the role that should have been played by Syria during the war, and due to differences over our interpretation of the nature of the political struggle that should be taken at this stage (after the departure of the PLO from Beirut), we believe that these differences should be resolved," he said.

The "strategic character" of relations with Syria, he said, stems from the common threat that the Palestinian and Syrian forces face in Lebanon. "Furthermore, it is imperative for the struggle against the Israeli aggression that relations between the PLO, Jordan and Syria be strengthened," he added.

"Jordan, Syria and the PLO represent a major link in the struggle for the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and the people under occupation," he said. "Therefore, the PLO will concentrate its efforts to patch up Arab differences and unite the Arab stand on the major issues," he added.

Abu Jihad said the PLO will continue to endorse political moves. But, he said, that does not mean that the PLO has dropped the "military option". Abu Jihad said the PLO is determined to continue armed struggle against Israel in all Israeli-occupied territories, including Lebanon. "The latest wave of attacks against Israeli army units is part of an escalated drive to resist the enemy," he said. "I am announcing to you an open secret that the PLO fighting units have been given orders to step up their attacks both in the occupied Palestinian territories and in Lebanon."

Abu Jihad said negotiations with the Israelis, through the International Red Cross and Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, on exchanging prisoners of war have been bogged down by Israeli intransigence over supplying a list of those Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners whom Israel transferred from Ansar camp near Sidon to unknown jails elsewhere. "Once the Israelis provide us with the list, the negotiations will resume," he said.

The PLO is willing to exchange eight Israeli prisoners captured during the war for 1,000 Palestinians detained in Israeli prisons, he said. These Palestinians include all Palestinian women imprisoned in Israel, all the severely sick prisoners, all those serving long or life sentences, Ziyad Abu 'Ayn, who was extradited by the U.S. to Israel in 1981, the 1948 Arabs who are detained for political reasons and a number of Jewish activists, Abu Jihad said. The PLO also demanded the return of the contents of the Palestine Research Centre which was looted by the Israeli forces when they entered West Beirut last September, he added.

ARAB-AFRICAN CONFERENCE BEGINS IN TUNISIA

Chedli Klibi Address

LD212202 Kuwait KUNA in English 1704 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis, March 21 (KUNA) -- The prevailing economic situation is the major reason for the weakness of the Third World including Arab and African countries in addition to the dependent status they are having in international relations, the Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi said Monday. In an inaugural speech before the sixth session of the permanent committee for Afro-Arab cooperation, Klibi declared that the state of appendage which the Arab and African countries live is making the consequences of the economic crisis on them harder than others.

The meeting which is held at ministerial level is attended by representatives of 12 Arab and 12 African countries. The Arab side to the meeting was led by the Syrian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Faruq ash-Shar' while the African side is led by Niger's Foreign Minister Daouda Diallo. Kuwait is represented in the meeting by Public Health Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman al-'Awadi and Kuwait's ambassador in Tunis and its permanent representative to the Arab League Mizran al-Hamad.

Klibi affirmed that the Arab countries are standing alongside the African states in their steadfastness and just struggle against racism and are affirming the significance of the independence of Namibia and the practise by the Namibian people of their national rights. Klibi said that victory, if scored over any of the racist regimes of South Africa or Israel, is regarded as a weakness for the other and an effective mean toward overcoming both [word indistinct] due to the close cooperation in all fields between them.

Klibi called for extending Afro-Arab cooperation to cover the political, economic, social and cultural aspects and urged undertaking of joint development ventures to prepare for Afro-Arab integration. Klibi said that an Afro-Arab information policy that aims at breaking the monopoly of the Western media is needed as much as transport and telecommunication nets between Arab and African countries.

Tunisian Prime Minister

LD212145 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1627 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Speech by Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali at opening session of sixth conference of permanent committee for Arab-African cooperation in Tunis on 21 March -- recorded]

[Excerpts] This meeting is enhanced and appears to be starting under a good sign because it is being convened in the wake of the agreement, or rather the treaty, concluded between Algeria and Tunisia -- a treaty of fraternity and concord that expresses common determination, faith in the future, and will to transcend what is important for what is most important.

We, sons of the Arab nation and sons of the African Continent, are meeting in challenging and difficult conditions. All the brothers who spoke before me already emphasized the growing economic traumas of these conditions, the financial chaos, the unsettled international economic situation, the sharpening of the protectionist tendency by the industrialized rich states at the expense of the developing countries. For those who have not already realized it, they emphasized the figleaf being taken off the fallacy of the so-called North-South dialogue together with the failure of the advanced rich states to follow a moral line and have the correct view of the need for solidarity and mutual support for the progress of the developing countries. These nations still suffer not only from the unfair international system, but also from the scars left upon them by a fierce colonialism that plundered their riches, exploited their peoples, and left time bombs in their territories here and there that are still exploding one after the other, thus creating marginal problems between our peoples and our states on the road of their fateful struggle for sovereignty, dignity, and prosperity.

In these difficult conditions and in the face of these challenges and these open invasions, we Africans, we Arabs are meeting to look at our reality and to familiarize ourselves with the extent of this dialogue and this cooperation between us, particularly since the first Arab-African summit that convened in Cairo in 1977.

It is the fact that certain Arabs and Africans impugn certain other Arabs and Africans. It is fallicious, childish claims which, like a stain, sully certain leaders or rather certain small-time leaders to whom Satan insidiously suggests that they are the bearers of a heavenly mission to interfere in other people's affairs and to lead peoples or individuals to heaven in chains. Looking back 20 years at Arab-African reality at least indicates the fallacy and the failure of this. It shows that these claims take us backward and not forward. Let peoples decide their own fate and their affairs! If anyone cannot say something good or render a service, even a modest one, let him -- and may God reward him -- refrain from interfering in other people's affairs.

PLO RADIO REAFFIRMS POSITION ON PEACE PROCESS

JN191756 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Mar 83

["Political commentary"]

[Excerpts] The PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, has gained the right of being the only legitimate representative through the struggle of its sons on the military, political, and diplomatic levels. In the occupied territories after both 1948 and 1967, the Palestinian masses took an unwavering stand behind the PLO. Since the Rabat summit conference and until now, the Arab states have regarded the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The Nonaligned Movement states have reaffirmed this fact. The socialist states recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The PNC meetings, including the recent meeting in Algiers, have reiterated their confidence that the PLO is qualified to work in the service of the Palestinian cause in all fields, including the realization of peace in the region.

In answer to comments by some Arab newspapers on 16 March which said that the Palestinian side has not yet decided its clear position on the peace process -- that the Palestinians are hesitant in taking any position on this process -- we say that the PLO decisively affirms its desire, the desire of the Palestinian people whom it represents, to realize a just and durable peace in the region that guarantees the Palestinian people's right of self-determination and the establishment of their own independent state on their soil.

The PLO is moving within the Arab seven-member committee, alongside the fraternal Arab states and on the basis of the Fes summit resolutions, to explain the Arab position, which is the same as the Palestinian position, on the peace process. The PLO wants a just and permanent peace, and not just any peace imposed by the enemies of the Arab nation. The U.S. Administration and the enemy government are not working seriously to realize a just and permanent peace. The Begin government has even rejected the Reagan plan. As an answer to the Reagan plan, the Begin government sped up the process of building settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. This is the fact concerning the Palestinian position on peace in the region. It is the position on which the Arabs agreed unamimously during the Fes summit last year.

CORRECTION TO AL-WAZIR COMMENT ON FORCES IN AL-BIQA'

The following correction pertains to the item entitled "Al-Wazir on Palestinian Forces in Al-Biqa'," published in the 18 March Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT on page A 6, first paragraph, line two:

...deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian forces, said that the main Palestinian forces are still on contact lines with the Zionist enemy... (adding dropped line)

BAHRAIN

HEIR APPARENT TO VISIT U.S. IN MARCH

GF201354 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Manama, 20 Mar (WAKH) -- It was announced here today that His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, will make an official visit to the United States before the end of March that will last for several days.

Following a meeting held by the Cabinet today, Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for Cabinet affairs, said his highness the heir apparent will hold talks in Washington with U.S. officials on bilateral relations and the situation in the Middle East.

Ash-Shirawi affirmed that this visit will have good results and enhance bilateral relations and Arab efforts to serve the current issues, particularly those pertaining to the Middle East cause.

KUWAIT

ENVOY ON U.S. DECISION AGAINST NEW ENERGY LEASES

LD181819 Kuwait KUNA in English 1600 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Washington, March 18 (KUNA) -- The Kuwait ambassador to the United States expressed confidence here Friday that differences between the United States and Kuwait over the U.S. decision not to allow Kuwait to acquire new energy and mineral leases on federal land will be settled.

The ambassador, Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir as-Sabah, met with the Assistant Secretary of the Interior Robinson West Thursday afternoon to explain to him Kuwait's position and to submit to him documents that Kuwait does not discriminate against American companies.

"I am very optimistic that the issue will be resolved," Shaykh Sa'ud told KUNA after the one-hour meeting with West and top Interior Department officials.

The ambassador said he had presented to them Kuwait's position on the decision taken by the Secretary of the Interior James Watt last week that Kuwait cannot hold onshore oil and gas leases on federal land because it discriminated against American oil companies.

Shaykh Sa'ud expected the dialogue to continue within the coming two or three weeks and expressed confidence that the issue will be settled.

The Kuwaiti envoy, in an interview with KUNA last week after Watt's decision was made public said, "We hope that U.S. officials will reconsider their decision after giving us the opportunity to explain these issues involved clearly. We would like the decision to take on a sound and legal basis...if the decision is legal (?then) we are capable of rebutting it."

Watt himself announced that the U.S. is ready to reconsider its position if new evidence emerges that Kuwait does not discriminate against American companies.

OMAN

SULTAN QABUS TO VISIT JORDAN, U.S. SOON

GF201350 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Statement issued by Sultani Court Affairs Office]

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id will make an official visit to the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at the invitation of his brother His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan between Tuesday, 29 March, and Thursday, 31 March 1983.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus will also make an official visit to the United States at the official invitation from Ronald Reagan, president of the United States, between Monday, 11 April, and Friday, 15 April 1983.

QATAR

AL-BILAD: AMBASSADOR IN TUNIS VICTIM OF 'CONSPIRACY'

GF191400 Jidda AL-BILAD in Arabic 17 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Jidda -- Special sources in the Tunisian capital disclosed to AL-BILAD that the Qatari ambassador in the Tunisian capital, Rashid Muhammad Khatir, did not commit suicide as publicized but fell victim to a conspiracy plotted against him by some extremist Arab elements who arrived in Tunis recently from an Arab capital.

The sources added that the personality that perpetrated this conspiracy against the late Qatari ambassador is considered one of the extreme personalities who is rejected by all the Arab regimes. The sources added that other ambiguities in this case, which is surrounded by mystery, will be disclosed in the coming days.

AL-BILAD will pursue this case when it obtains further information.

SAUDI ARABIA

RADIO ON RESULTS OF DELEGATION'S VISIT TO LONDON

LD191336 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Analysis by Jasir 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasir]

[Text] Since yesterday, the British capital has been witnessing an Arab political display [tadhahruah] through the presence of the Arab seven-member committee led by His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. The committee had several meetings, the atmosphere of which was dominated by a sweeping wave of unexpected optimism. This is because the committee, whose visit had been postponed more than once, has achieved so quickly the preliminary results that are disclosed in the statements of the Arab foreign ministers, who are members of the committee, and the British officials. An official statement issued by the British prime minister's office said that the talks were held in a very cordial and constructive atmosphere. The two sides discussed various aspects of the Middle East problem and the Arab side explained the results of the Fes summit conference. Britain once again confirmed its determination to see a just and lasting settlement in the Middle East on the basis of the Venice Declaration: the rights of existence and security for all the states of the region and justice to the Palestinians, including their right to self-determination.

The cordial atmosphere of the talks was also confirmed by British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym. He said that the Arab League had defined its attitude and it is now for Israel to decide to join the peace process in the Middle East. His Majesty King Husayn, leader of the Arab delegation, was clear when he defined the Arab delegation's task in a lengthy speech at a reception held by Mrs Thatcher in the delegation's honor. King Husayn concentrated on two main points: First, the Palestine problem was and continues to be the essence of the conflict in the Middle East; and second, the Arab delegation's task on its peace mission is an embodiment of the will of all the Arabs. Observers did not miss the many references in King Husayn's speech to Britain's relationship with the Palestine problem through its trusteeship over this Arab country and its international mandate. Those references were made in a good way, without causing any embarassment, but they were made to recall Britain's responsibility in relation to this problem.

Generally speaking, the atmosphere of the talks in London exceeded all expectations. Observers expect good results from the talks, which were harmonious with the welcome accorded the members of the delegation when they arrived at the Foreign Office. The royal band played for more than 1/2 hour awaiting the arrival of the leader of the delegation, who walked with his hostess on a red carpet -- two kind gestures that did not escape the eyes of the British press, which saw in them an indication of Britain's interest in the Arab delegation. The British press said that this is the first time that such a welcoming ceremony has been held.

Today the British press commented on the preliminary results of the talks, saying that in London the Arab delegation had achieved results that superceded those achieved in other world capitals. Arab political quarters are also optimistic, and so are the quarters of the Arab delegation in general. It can be said that what has been achieved is commensurate with the Arab effort that prepared for this visit, which was preceded by much talk, action, and effort.

UAE

AL-BAYAN CITES DROP IN UAE OIL REVENUES

GF181018 Doha QNA in Arabic 0828 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Dubayy, 18 Mar (QNA) -- According to press reports here the UAE stands to lose between 7.5 billion to 8 billion dirhams in oil revenues as a result of the OPEC decision to reduce oil production. This estimate is based on the production quota of 1.1 million barrels a day allocated to the UAE.

AL-BAYAN reports that the UAE's oil revenues are expected to drop significantly from what they were in 1981. In 1981 revenues from the UAE's oil and natural gas exports totalled 71 billion dirhams, and the average daily production ranged between 1.4 million and 1.5 million barrels a day. The value of oil exports is expected to fall by more than 12 billion dirhams on 1981 figures.

AL-BAYAN says that statistics on the UAE's oil revenues in 1982 are not available yet, but that export figures for the first 6 months of 1982 amount to 28.94 billion dirhams and natural gas exports amounted to 1.78 billion dirhams, compared with 35.6 billion dirhams of oil revenues and 1.29 billion dirhams of natural gas revenues for the same period in 1981. This represents an 18.7 percent fall in income.

AL-BAYAN says that despite such a fall in revenues, there was surplus of 20 billion dirhams in the UAE balance of trade in the first 6 months of 1982.

This surplus is 4.8 billion dirhams less than that for the same period in 1981, a drop of 19.5 percent.

PDRY

SOVIET TRADE UNION DELEGATION VISITS

GF191020 Aden ANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Brother Sultan ad-Dush, YSP Central Committee member and PDRY trade union secretary general, has stressed that the friendship agreement between the general unions in our country and the Central Trade Union Council of the Soviet Union -- which was signed in Moscow in December 1982 -- reflects the existing cooperation and friendship between the Yemeni working class and its union movement and the friendly unions in the Soviet Union in light of the current profound struggling relations between our Yemeni Socialist Party and the Soviet Communist Party.

While receiving a delegation representing the Soviet Central Trade Union Council today which was led by Vitaliy Provotorov, secretary of the Central Trade Union Council of Soviet Unions, he praised all forms of solidarity and cooperation between the working classes and the union movement in our country by the workers and unions in the friendly Soviet Union. Sultan ad-Dush also expressed his extreme gratitude to our working Yemeni class and to its union movement for their principled and constant stand toward the Soviet Union and the latter's unlimited solidarity with our Arab peoples -- in their confrontation of the Zionist-imperialist plans -- foremost of whom is the heroic struggle of our Arab-Palestinian people in order to achieve their legitimate rights to determine their own fate, and establish their independent and national state under the leadership of the PLO. Ad-Dush hailed the outstanding role and the sincere efforts which are exerted by the Soviet Union to achieve peace, international rapproachment and disarmament.

The Soviet delegation praised the role undertaken by the unions in order to achieve economic and social development. It also praised all the achievements and gains that were achieved in favor of the working class in the PDRY under the sound leadership of the YSP.

The first round of the official talks between the Soviet and Yemeni union representatives, which began yesterday, dealt with the level of the implementation of the existing protocols of cooperation between the general unions in our country and the Central Trade Union Council on the Soviet Union.

The Soviet delegation arrived in Aden yesterday on an official and friendly visit to the PDRY lasting several days.

In a statement to ANA Comrade Provotorov noted upon arrival that his visit to the PDRY falls within the framework of the friendship and cooperation agreement which was signed between the Soviet and Yemeni unions. He added that the visits which are exchanged between the delegations will help develop relations and benefit from common experiences. Concluding his statement, he described the relations between the two unions as being excellent.

Upon arrival he was received by Brother Muhammad 'Abd al-Jalil as-Sarari, the secretary of the Central Council, in addition to members of the PDRY Central Trade Union Council and officials from the Soviet Embassy.

MUBARAK HOSTS BANQUET FOR PORTUGAL'S EANES

NC202002 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that the continuing tense situation in the area is unacceptable because it is threatening the worst consequences as well as the peace process for which we have fought. It is also creating further suspicion and rancor at a time when we are in need of reviving hopes.

The president also affirmed that peace cannot be achieved under the aegis of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and the policy of settlements and repression in the West Bank and Gaza. He said that we must correct the conditions on the basis of each side respecting the legitimate rights of the other and meticulously adhering to the provisions of the law and legitimate principles.

In an address he delivered at a dinner banquet he gave tonight in honor of Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho at the Presidential Palace in 'Abidin, President Mubarak called for the acceleration of the withdrawal from Lebanon and respect for its people's sovereignty over their land and control of their destiny to enable this people to start the reconstruction process in the wake of the incidents which have played havoc with their security and stability for many years.

The president said: We look forward to the resumption of the international efforts concerning the Palestinian issue, because peace will not be complete and stability will not be achieved so long as the Palestinian people remain deprived of their rights to self-determination and to establishment of their entity on their territory. On its part, Egypt adheres to the rights of this struggling people and will not abandon its support and help for this people in the gloomiest circumstances.

The following is the text of President Mubarak's speech at the banquet, which was attended by the members of the delegation accompanying the Portugese president and senior Egyptian officials and military officers:

Your Excellency President Antonio Ramalho Eanes, Mrs Eanes, dear friends:

I am pleased to welcome you on the good land of Egypt and express to you our appreciation of the ties of friendship and amity which link us with the Portuguese people, who have contributed to the making of civilization and progress and to the extension of the bridge of cooperation and interaction among nations and peoples.

The firm relations between your noble people and the Arab nation have developed throughout the centuries since the start of the Arab presence in Andalusia and the Arab and Islamic civilization interblended with the Latin civilization. A great scientific and intellectual rennaissance developed which shall always be a testimony to the unity of the human struggle and a symbol of the ability of peoples to create and accomplish through active participation and creative exchange.

These close ties have not been broken throughout this time. Portugal has become a great maritime state whose people have roamed the continents in east and west. It was natural that they should seek to establish the strongest ties with [words indistinct] on the basis of mutual respect and common interest.

Mr President, we are following with admiration and appreciation the efforts which you are exerting to consolidate the basis of democracy in your country and to establish the suitable atmosphere for stability and development within the context of full popular participation and on the basis of the mobilization of the material and moral resources to tackle the economic problems which now constitute the greatest challenge to the various peoples at this time.

We believe that there is wide scope for intensifying the cooperation between our two countries in the various fields, both with regard to the transfer of modern technology which conforms with the natural and social environment and the development of production and industries and to the exchange of products and expertise.

The talks that we have held since your arrival have proved your agreement with us in analyzing the situation in the Middle East area in which the close relationship between security and peace in it and stability and prosperity on the European Continent cannot be ignored. Allow me to take this opportunity to express to you our appreciation of the support you have given for the steady efforts which we have exerted in delicate circumstances to establish peace in the area and lower the curtain on a sad period in its history which has only witnessed war, destruction, and suffering.

We feel that the continuing tense situation in the area is unacceptable because it is threatening the worst consequences as well as the peace process for which we have fought. It is also creating further suspicion and rancor at a time when we are in more need of reviving hope.

This cannot be achieved under the aegis of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and the policy of settlements and repression in the West Bank and Gaza. We must correct the situation on the basis of each side respecting the legitimate rights of the others and meticulously adhering to the rules of law and the principles of legitimacy.

Therefore, we call for the acceleration of the withdrawal from Lebanon and respect for its people's sovereignty over their land and control over their destiny to enable this to start the reconstruction process in the wake of the incidents which have played havoc with their security and stability for many years.

On the other hand, we look forward to the resumption of the efforts to settle the Palestinian issue, because peace will not be complete and stability will not be achieved as long as the Palestinian people remain deprived of their rights to self-determination and to establishment of their national entity on their land. On its part, Egypt adheres to the rights of this struggling people and will not abandon its support and help for this people in the gloomiest circumstances.

By the same standard, we reject the unjust conditions which exist in southern Africa, where the minority race is violating the rights of the owners of the land and right, attaching little importance to international unanimity and the UN resolutions, standing in the way of the independence of Namibia and threatening the security of the confrontation states to deter them against manifesting their solidarity with the fraternal people in the south. We know your country's interest in tackling this explosive situation by virtue of your realization of the inevitability of the victory of the forces of liberation, progress, and independence.

Dear friends, may I call on you to stand up and salute President Antonio Eanes and Mrs Eanes as well as the friendly Portuguese people and the close relations between our two peoples and countries.

In reply, Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes delivered the following address:

Mr President: I thank Your Excellency for the address you have delivered and the wishes you have expressed, in which I have found a spirit of friendship with and interest in the Portuguese people.

The same friendship and interest are definitely expressed in the general feelings of the Portuguese people. These feelings also express our historic relations with the Arab people.

Our joint interests at present and the hopes of our cooperation in the future will give a new expression to our points of view, which are in many ways similar. The joint cooperation between our peoples emanates from the intermingling of relations that go back to the year 711, which witnessed [the establishment of] the relations of the European people with the Arab people. As soon as the divisions which had placed us in difficult positions were overcome, the relations between our peoples regarding their traditions and cultures were able to demonstrate the extent of the strength and continuity of these relations up to now and that they are stronger than any anomalous circumstances. Within the framework of this mutual knowledge, our interest was strengthened in following up the efforts which Egypt is exerting to find firm solutions, through negotiations, to one of the disputes which has created the greatest anxiety of our age. By accepting the course of dialogue and negotiations, Egypt deserves the support of all those who believe, above all else, in following sound courses and the method of negotiations for the sake of solving situations of tension and conflict.

For initiatives of dialogue to be a real impetus for the normalization of international relations, a just and permanent solution of the Palestinian problem must be found on their bases. Such a solution, which should be characterized by justice and peace and which should comply with the principles of the UN Charter and international law, requires the following: firm guarantees for the rights of all the countries and peoples in the area to existence and security and for the rights of the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable right to a homeland and to decide their future on the basis of their right to self-determination.

On the basis of the same comprehensive view, the international community must demonstrate that it can and that it desires to support Lebanon's territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty.

The difficult conditions we are facing in international relations -- conditions which have worsened as a result of the threat of an economic crisis -- make it incumbent on us to increase our strength to defend the values that form the personality of our peoples and express the independence of our countries. For the same reason, we must be more decisive in demanding the attainment of speedy and effective results when the basic conditions for reaching guaranteed and stable solutions are available.

With the same views, we are following up the development of events in Namibia, where the achievement of a just solution for that problem will lead to the onset of a new age of security, stability, and cooperation in a wide area. This will contribute toward preparing the climate for achieving sound development in a disturbed area where tension prevails.

Within the framework of international relations, the presence of foreign forces in Afghanistan will continue to be one of the factors that cause anxiety. The situation there, which is unacceptable by the principles which govern international relations, is considered to be a precedent for unpredictable consequences and also a continuous factor for instability.

With the same spirit of the principles which guide Portugal's domestic affairs and its international relations, I am not content with only denouncing the imposed situation in Timor, where its people are prevented from exercising their right of freely deciding their fate. Moreover, this situation is considered to be a test of the credibility of the international community's ability to prove its respect for the values in which it believes.

Mr President: Portugal, which is situated on the Atlantic, has deep cultural roots in the Mediterranean and strong fraternal relations with African and Latin American countries. Within the context of integrated relations, which are based on deep historic ties that are supported by joint interests, the frameworks which govern our external policy find justifications.

We are a founding member of NATO and we believe NATO's participation in achieving stability in Europe is a basic factor for achieving world peace and providing protection for the values of freedom, collective political participation, and the achievement of social justice in an integrated manner.

We defend the correct view regarding the need to maintain the balance of deterrent armaments in Europe, because it is a condition for security and a basis for holding fruitful negotiations on the mutual reduction of military capabilities. We also defend the need to strengthen European unity, which is based on defending the values of freedom, democracy, and social justice.

We deeply believe that the strengthening of European unity would make an important contribution to the achievement of stability and security. It would also at the same time enable us, in a suitable and effective manner, to create new forms of cooperation between the European states and other areas of the world.

The cooperation of the European states in confronting the current challenges resulting from the world economic crisis and the current tensions in financial circles and the varying degrees of development in various parts of the world will definitely be a strong means for the achievement of [economic] recovery.

The need to find a new international economic order has, in general, been accepted. It is possible to take steps toward this goal now, provided the plans for economic cooperation and exchange are prepared to take into consideration mutual as well as long-range interests. This is considered one of the lines which govern Portugal's foreign policy, and specifically its relations with those states in Africa with which we maintain close relations.

We will continue to defend this course even after we join the European Community, because we believe that the solution of the current economic problems does not prevent the establishment of close (?economic) cooperation with all areas and states in Africa.

This will also be a definite course to maintain the [word indistinct] independence achieved by the African states.

By virtue of its social and political position, its strategic geographical location and its [word indistinct] values inside the group to which it belongs, Egypt represents an important [word indistinct] in asserting the effectiveness of the Arab world.

Egypt is also considered one of the active members of the OAU, which affirms its vital importance for the achievement of economic [words indistinct] and social progress.

Egypt has also played a leading role in the Nonaligned Movement, through which an independent concept of international relations has been and is continuing to be expressed in order to ensure the geopolitical balance.

[Words indistinct] and understanding between our two countries and people, it is natural to continue strengthening the ties of friendship by seeking new spheres of cooperation in all possible fields.

The natural interaction between the two areas to which our two countries belong, in addition to the similarity that exists between our economic systems, gives us suitable conditions to develop our relations.

I believe that our friendship will continue and the aspects of cooperation between us will definitely increase in all fields. I call on you to stand up with me as a salute to the prosperity of the people of Egypt and to the strengthening of the relations between our two peoples and to the happiness of President and Mrs Mubarak.

AL-AKHBAR CITES MUBARAK INTERVIEW ON PEACE TALKS

NC220818 Cairo MENA in English 0725 GMT 22 Mar 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, March 22 (MENA) -- AL-AKHBAR reported on its front-page today the interview President Husni Mubarak has granted to THE WASHINGTON POST and in which he expected that King Husayn of Jordan would shortly declare preparedness to join the Middle East peace talks.

The president said he shared that standpoint of the U.S. and Israel stressing the necessity of the Jordanian king's participation in those talks.

AL-AKHBAR SCORES SYRIA'S STANCE ON MIDEAST PEACE

NC220810 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA) -- AL-AKHBAR denounces Syria's refusal to join the Middle East process and its wrath because of the Arab solidarity represented in the contacts taking place among Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and Lebanon to the extent that it has warned King Husayn against joining the Arab ranks and working for peace.

In an article today, AL-AKHBAR refers to the warning which the Syrian paper TISHRIN, the mouthpiece of the Syrian Ba'th Party, addressed to King Husayn against joining the peace negotiations and its description of King Husayn's accession to these negotiations as a crime and plot against the Palestinian question.

AL-AKHBAR points out that the Syrian TISHRIN was not content with its warning to King Husayn but went further to condemn the contacts which took place between the king and Egypt, saying the king has thus deviated from the Arab boycott of Egypt.

AL-AKHBAR describes the Syrian warning as a gangster method which the Syrian Ba'thists resort to as a tool of intimidation and threat. It stresses that the Syrian Ba'thists want the Middle East area, particularly the Arab area, to remain strife torn and an object of controvery and differences to use it as a means for imposing taxes and demanding money, the course of their livelihood.

COMMUNIQUE NO 1,035 ON 21 MAR WAR OPERATIONS

JN211717 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,035 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 21 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave armed forces, while taking part in our glorious people's celebrations of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah week, take the pledge before God, the people, the homeland, and the triumphant leader Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, to march ahead toward scoring further ground, sea, and air victories over the forces of the rancorous and suspect Khomeyniite regime. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units sighted and pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the Maysan sector, killing seven and destroying one infantry position with its men.

2. Three were killed and two vehicles were destroyed east of Basra.

3. One was killed in the central sector of the battlefield.

4. One of the enemy troops yesterday ran away from the hell of the Khomeyniite sanguinary regime and sought refuge with one of our forward units in the northern sector of the battlefield. He was evacuated to the rear after being reassured of complete peace and safety.

5. Today the spiteful Iranian regime shelled Mandali and Zurbatiyah with artillery, causing damage to some civilian installations.

[Sogned] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 March 1983

NA'IM HADDAD MEETS WITH SOVIET OFFICIAL

JN210902 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Moscow, 21 Mar (INA) -- National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad and his delegation met in Tbilisi yesterday with Pavel Georgiyevich Gilashvili, chairman of the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, and some Presidium members. They exchanged viewpoints, particularly on matters related to the Iraq-Iran war.

The Soviet official praised Iraq's peaceful stands to end the war and its constant cooperation with international efforts to achieve a political solution to its conflict with Iran. The Soviet official also criticized the Iranian regime's stands, stressing the need to end the war and to find a just solution.

The National Assembly delegation arrived in Tbilisi the day before yesterday on a short visit. The delegation was received at the airport by Irakliy Vissarionovich Abashidze, chairman of Georgian SSR Supremen Soviet.

ANTI-EGYPTIAN RADIO REPORTEDLY SUSPENDED

PM182113 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 19-25 Mar 83 p 9

[From the "AL-MAJALLAH Envoys" feature]

[Text] Cairo sources have said that recent contacts between Iraq and Egypt have resulted in the suspension of the "Voice of Arab Egypt" radio which was beamed from Baghdad and was attacking the Egyptian regime. The radio in question was controlled by a number of Egyptians opposed to the late President Anwar as-Sadat's policy.

SOURCE EXPLAINS KING HUSAYN'S STATEMENT

PM211609 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Mar 83 p 1

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT correspondent report: ["Clarification"]

[Text] Londong [no date given] -- An official Jordanian spokesman has told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that foreign news agencies have wrongly interpreted King Husayn's statement as meaning that he twice secretly visited Egypt during Mubarak's rule. In fact, by saying that the severance of diplomatic relations does not prevent the holding of direct or indirect contacts between the Arab countries and that he had visited Egypt twice when diplomatic relations between the two countries were broken, King Husayn meant that the two visits he paid to Egypt were during the rule of the late president Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir. This was what has led foreign news agencies to draw the wrong conclusion that the two visits took place recently.

TALKS WITH ROMANIAN DELEGATION BEGIN 20 MARCH

JN201854 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] The meetings of the fifth session of the joint Jordanian-Romanian Committee for Economic, Technical, and Scientific Cooperation began at the National Planning Council today. The committee reviewed the progress of work in Jordanian development projects covered by the protocol of cooperation which was approved by the fourth session in June 1980, and which the Romanian side is implementing. The committee also reviewed aspects of existing cooperation between the two sides in the scientific and cultural fields, and trade relations between the two countries with a view to strengthening them in the future. The committee also discussed aspects of future cooperation between the two countries in all fields with a view to bolstering the cordial ties between the two friendly countries.

The Jordanian side was headed by Dr Hanna 'Awdah, chairman of the National Planning Council, and the Romanian side by Ion Stanescu, Romanian minister, head of the department for construction abroad.

Minister Receives Delegation

JN211344 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Walid 'Asfur today met with the head of the Romanian delegation to the meetings of the fifth session of the joint Jordanian-Romanian Committee for Economic, Technical, and Scientific Cooperation. The two sides reviewed bilateral economic and commercial relations and means of developing and promoting these relations. They also reviewed the progress which has been achieved during the committee's meetings currently being held in Amman.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS END IN NETANYA 21 MAR

NC211128 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1050 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Report by Information Ministry's delegation to Netanya -- live]

[Text] This is the Information Ministry's delegation to the tripartite Lebanese-American-Israeli negotiations speaking to you again from the Dan Netanya hotel in Israel.

Because of the many telephone disruptions between Beirut and Netanya, we will repeat what we reported a few minutes ago so that our message is clear and correct. We said that Dr Duwud as-Sayigh, the official spokesman of the Lebanese delegation, made the following statement on the progress of the work of the three committees 5 minutes ago. Dr Dawud as-Sayigh said: Today's meetings were a resumption of previous discussions. The subcommittees began their activities after a plenary session during which some basic issues, particularly the question of the security arrangements, were raised. The mutual relations subcommittee and the committee on ending the state of war discussed some provisions. The security arrangements question will be discussed at Friday's meeting in Netanya.

Ladies and gentlemen: We must remind you of the highlights of today's session. We point out that the plneary session began at 0955. It was followed by a meeting of the subcommittees on ending the state of war, mutual relations, and the military committee which includes the security arrangements and withdrawals sub-committees. The meeting ended a few minutes ago. Avi Pazner, the official spokesman of the Israeli delegation, is making a statement now. We will provide you with a translation of the statement after a few minutes.

It has been decided to hold the next meeting in Netanya on Friday. A new schedule fixing the dates of the future negotiation sessions will be prepared taking into account the occasion of the holidays in Lebanon and Israel next Monday and Tuesday.

Leader of the Israeli delegation David Kimche will leave for Paris at noon today. There have been various reports about the existence of a new French initiative. A member of the Lebanese delegation denied there is anything official on this initiative.

SALIM RETURNS FROM U.S. VISIT, MAKES STATEMENT

NC211730 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Upon his return to Beirut at 1600 today, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim said: Our presence in the U.S. capital has changed a situation which was dangerous for Lebanon. In reply to newsmen's questions he said: We prevented negative effects and consolidated direct relations with the U.S. Administration. We left an impression with the U.S. officials about the seriousness of the Lebanese leadership. I think that we were able to convince President Reagan's administration of the Lebanese viewpoint. He added: I am surprised at the lack of positive Israeli reactions to the U.S. proposals.

Asked to assess the results of his tour, Minister Salim said:

[Begin recording] The visit to Washington was very important because there were many dangers facing Lebanon at this stage during the past week in Washington. We can say that at least we prevented the negative effects and stopped everything that could lead to negative results for Lebanon. This was possible. I think that if there was any lukewarmness toward the Lebanese issue, we were able to end that during this visit.

Of course, there are other positive aspects which are difficult to assess now and see their results. Perhaps the most important thing which we, as a Lebanese delegation, did in Washington was that we strengthened the direct relations between Secretary of State Shultz and the Lebanese Government. The strengthening takes place on the personal level, on the level of public relations, and on the political level. When one meets with them for hours and hours and talks with frankness, forcefulness, and objectivity about Lebanon, its troubles and hopes, I think that one can influence them very much and leave a good impression. The impression which was left about Lebanon was that Lebanon is a serious country, its leadership is serious and wise, its aims are clear, and the limits of its movement one way or the other are very clear. I think that we have convinced the U.S. side of the Lebanese viewpoint. This, of course, could not have happened had it not been for the intensity of the meetings on the personal level and on the delegation level.

In the United States we expressed our profound regret for the incident in which the Marines were involved. In Europe we also expressed our profound regret for the incident in which the Italian soldiers were involved in Lebanon, or any force which is present in Lebanon now to help Lebanon. We regret the existence of elements which operate against this force which supports the government and the legal authority and works for the restoration of sovereignty and independence to Lebanon.

How can one assess these results? Our presence there has changed a situation which was dangerous for Lebanon. Because of our presence there, the United States presented proposals which were based, to a great extent, on the Lebanese visualization. Whether these U.S. solutions and proposals will receive a positive response from Israel or not, I do not know. I know that Philip Habib telephoned me today and told me that he would like to meet with us at 2000 today. Today we may have the first (?positive) response to these proposals.

I would be very surprised if the U.S. proposals do not get a positive response from Israel. Therefore, I consider this week, the next week, or the next 2 weeks as a critical period. It will show if Israel is really interested in the points on which we are negotiating in Khaldah and Netanya. If these are the points which we are really negotiating about, I think that Lebanon has said what can be said about these points. Lebanon's position is not subject to change or to minor or major amendment. Either we negotiate about these points and arrive at an agreement soon or there are other points which have not been raised or objectives other than those which are the subject of negotiations. If this takes place, we will be moving on one track while Israel is moving on another. If after 1 or 2 weeks it emerges that this is what Israel is aiming at, we will then have to deal with this policy and this new course in a new way and with all seriousness. Every problem has a solution and every knot has a way and a method to be untied.

The important thing is that there is no despair on our part. There is no pessimism; there is no apprehension. Irrespective of the difficulties facing Lebanon, our faith is strong that we can solve them. Our faith is strong that our friends -- the United States, Western Europe and in the whole world -- are firmly with us in the present crisis. This support will inevitably be translated into practical and positive results for Lebanon. [end recording]

Minister Salim made it clear that Lebanon is ready to dispel Israel's fears regarding the security arrangements and to provide definite assurances.

Once again he said that Washington will need about 2 weeks to convince Israel of Lebanon's point of view concerning the security arrangements in the south. If this period passes and nothing is achieved, Minister Salim said: I will begin to suspect that there are objectives other than those we are negotiating about in Khaldah and Netanya.

More on Salim's Statement

NC211948 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Excerpts] A short while ago U.S. presidential envoy Ambassador Phillip Habib, accompanied by Ambassador Morris Draper, arrived in Beirut. At 2000 today, as scheduled, an important meeting will be convened with Ambassador Habib, during which Lebanon will be informed of the Israeli attitude toward the U.S. proposals.

In view of tonight's meeting, at which the real Israeli stance will become known, Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Minister Elie Salim interrupted his European tour and this afternoon returned to Lebanon.

At the airport, Minister Salim made a very important statement, which he began by saying:

[Begin recording] My visit to Washington was very important because there were many dangers facing Lebanon at this stage during the past week in Washington.

[Question] As is known, through Shamir's presence in Washington, Israel tried to put pressure on or to dictate to the United States the Israeli viewpoint. Consequently, Lebanese diplomacy convinced Washington of Lebanon's viewpoint. Do you believe that the presence of Lebanese diplomacy has tended to make it inevitable that the United States will put pressure on Israel to accelerate the withdrawals from Lebanon?

[Answer] The term "pressure by one state on another" is indeed inaccurate. Relations among states are subject to persuasion. The relations between the United States and Israel are very strong. The United States does not put pressure on Israel. If the United States is convinced of a specific viewpoint, it tries to convince Israel through the means available to it -- through diplomatic channels and on the understanding that good relations exist between the two states -- to proceed in accordance with the U.S. thinking on this issue. I believe that the United States is convinced of the Lebanese viewpoint. I also believe that the United States is doing its utmost to convince Israel of the Lebanese and U.S. positions -- and I believe that this U.S. action will produce good results.

Israel has fears, suspicions, and its own policy. We have found that some of the Israeli fears are worthy of reassurances on our part. For instance, as far as security arrangements are concerned, if there are any Israeli fears, we stand prepared to dissipate these fears through the security arrangements which we, the Lebanese Army and the security forces, are ready to ensure in the south or throughout Lebanon. I also believe that the United States is fully convinced that we, the Lebanese, are ourselves capable of controlling our territory and of preventing it from serving as a staging base for hostile actions against Israel. It is possible that the United States will need some time to convince Israel of Lebanon's credibility concerning its undertaking to preserve security in its territory. I believe that this may take 2 weeks. If this does not happen within 2 weeks, then I will start suspecting that there are problems other than the present ones and that there are objectives other than those which we are discussing at the negotiations.

If things are as such, never mind, we stand prepared to deal with these objectives and with this policy through a similar and an even better policy. What counts is that we are not a weak or an isolated country. Our relations are strong, just as Israel's relations are strong. Our position is strong; it is even stronger than the position of any state in this area. Our cause is a just one -- and we have no doubt in this respect. Furthermore, we are daring and we have personalities, policy, and vision. We also have a wise leadership and we can implement the policy that we in Lebanon want. [passage indistinct]

[Question] The European moves you made were characterized by four very important meetings. The first was with King Husayn, the second with Philip Habib, the third with Claude Cheysson, and the fourth with Francis Pym. Can you tell us the nature of the results produced at these meetings and how they will reflect on Lebanon?

[Answer] When I returned to London I met with King Husayn and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam as well as with British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym. Through these political discussions my objective was to explain to them what took place in Washington -- each according to the things that interest him. As far as Britain is concerned, we have a British stance in support of Lebanon. The states contributing to the multinational force support Lebanon -- this is important. I always scrupulously put all the states contributing to the multinational force in the picture of the negotiations, because they are an interested party. Their youths are with us here; they are helping us in Lebanon.

When it comes to Minister Khaddam, there are very strong relations and ties. Following the intensive meetings in New Delhi, it is imperative that these meetings and discussions be continued. It is also imperative that I put Minister Khaddam in the picture, and inform him of the atmosphere at the negotiations as well as at the discussions that we held in Washington. In my relations with Minister Khaddam, I am extremely frank. There are things that I ask of him and there is information that I give him. He also deals with me in the same way. I believe that our good relations will lead to coordination which will help in the withdrawals from all of Lebanon.

In France, I naturally met with Minister Cheysson, who is particularly interested in the situation in Lebanon. I submitted a full report to him on the discussions that were held in Washington. He gave me some guidelines [irashadat]. He also explained some policies -- as he sees them -- toward the Middle East as well as some moves in the international arena and with the states that are influential in the area. Together we assessed the effect of these policies on Lebanese policy and on the likelihood of ensuring the withdrawals from Lebanon as soon as possible.

I wish I were in Rome today to meet with Vatican officials and with officials in Rome. However, with great regret, my program forced me to be present in Beirut. I decided to cancel my appointments in Rome, but I will be forced to return in the near future to achieve my mission there.

On the whole, the trip has been beneficial and important. There are still some major obstacles, but we hope that some of these obstacles will be removed within the next few days. [end recording]

FORMER PRIME MINISTER SALAM'S PRESS CONFERENCE

NC211530 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Mar 83

[News Conference by former Lebanese Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam on 21 March at his Beirut residence -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Salam] Allow me to begin by thanking the noble journalists of all affiliations for attending to hear a heart-to-heart statement. I did my utmost to do what gratifies my conscience, what assures my country's interests, and what lives up to the task that his excellency the president of the republic had assigned to me. Our presence in the United States, my presence and that of the other Lebanese delegation headed by my friend, Elie Salim, the foreign minister, was an extremely effective presence. It was an official presence compatible with the task with which we had been assigned, and it was a popular and informative presence in the United States -- and all of you information men know the value of information at this time in the world, particularly in the United States.

Our presence in the United States proved Lebanon's full unity. Not that I say that this unity was necessarily in doubt. However, it was necessary to furnish proof and to confirm this before the officials with whom we met and before the American people as a whole. We coupled our affirmation of national unity with another affirmation, that is, the ability of the Lebanese Army -- of which we are proud -- to discharge its mission to the farthest limit, or specifically, the ability of the Lebanese Army to take control of security throughout Lebanon when the armed men and the Israeli enemy withdraw from Lebanon. We made this affirmation because we felt that the Lebanese Army's ability was questioned, if not doubted, by many people. In this respect, the Lebanese Army's strength is derived from its number, equipment, efficiency, and good command. However, this strength primarily stems from the Lebanese people's desire to cooperate with this army to achieve security and stability in this cherished country.

We found a full response by the U.S. officials. We were also given unanimous Arab support by all the representatives of the Arab states in the United States in a manner that reinforced Lebanon's position in its official presence. [words indistinct] [I held discussions] with officials successively, beginning with the U.S. President, to Vice President Bush, and to the U.S. secretary of state and the U.S. secretary of defense, both of whom are interested in peace in the area and in Lebanon in particular. I held discussions at the level of the president of the republic, the vice president, and the secretaries. Meanwhile, negotiations were also being held with the Lebanese delegation that was headed by Minister Elie Salim, who had with him notably the coordinator of the negotiations, Chassan Tuwayni, who is one of you -- an information man and a journalist -- and who is one of us, an effective politician.

As I said yesterday, I believe that I return more optimistic than when I left. My optimism is based on this comprehensive national unity whose strength I felt while I was executing my work. I also wish that this unity will continue, will stand its ground, and will survive for the sake of Lebanon. I also feel that the American people are good people, who respond to all good intentions and to all peaceful calls.

Some matters occurred in the United States that looked as if they disturbed the friendly American people. News reports were released in the United States on the attacks that were launched against the U.S. Marines here.

However, no sooner had these reports been published than we immediately dissipated them by means of all the information media. We told them that this noble army that includes Americans, French, Italians, and British has come to Lebanon, not for war and for armed encounters; they have come to spread peace. We also told them that as the Lebanese people, we welcomed and we welcome them all and we appreciated and we appreciate their services.

[Question] Didn't you feel while you were in the United States that there was a difference between the decision made by Eisenhower in 1956 on the withdrawal of three foreign armies from Sinai, namely, the Israeli, French, and British armies, and the present U.S. Government's will to make decisions?

[Answer] Let us leave it for the United States to determine the means of movement toward achieving the peace that the United States wants -- and that we want -- to see prevailing in Lebanon and in the area. They are determined. Furthermore, you have heard about the conversation that took place between me and President Reagan on the U.S. behavior and on the suspicion that is being created, not only in Lebanon but in the whole area, by the fear that the United States is not determined to pursue to the end its course leading to the achievement of the peace that it seeks. I told him [words indistinct] they felt, or they had felt for many years, that if the United States takes one step forward one day, then it is liable to take two steps backward. His answer was firm, frank, and strong. He said: I have no reverse gear. In English, this expression has become quoted in the United States to the extent that the Americans now consider this expression as the motto of President Reagan, who said in English: "I have no reverse gear."

[Question] In light of your meetings held in the United States, particularly with President Reagan, to what extent can Lebanon wager on U.S. credibility this time?

[Answer] This is a completely relevant question. The matter now depends on U.S. credibility with Lebanon, with the Arab area, and with itself in the United States, or, in other words, on the credibility of U.S. officials with Lebanon, with the Arab area, and with the United States itself.

[Question] How do you view the U.S. pressure concerning the withdrawals?

[Answer] The United States has its methods. I do not want to go into the details of the pressure or of what they call in modern diplomatic parlance "persuasion." There are many means of persuasion. Therefore, let us leave it to the Americans to use these means. At this point, I want to say that we have felt that making use of these means began with just our presence in the United States, before we had even made any moves. Our presence had a great effect. Just the Lebanese presence in this intense manner -- a personal representative of the president of the republic and an efficient delegation headed by the foreign minister, together with the coordinator of the negotiations, Ghassan Tuwayni -- had a great effect. We arrived in the United States. As you know, a high-powered [dakhm] Israeli delegation, as everybody had called it -- Israel had called it, and all the information media had called it "a high-powered Israeli delegation" headed by the Israeli foreign minister -- had preceded us to the United States. This delegation began with what it considered a strong presence and ended with what I consider an utter failure before U.S. public opinion.

[Question] You said at the airport yesterday that, "we hope soon to see the results of the trip on the ground." From time to time, we hear that specific dates have been set for the beginning of the withdrawals. Have the Americans set a specific date?

[Answer] I personally do not permit myself to go by a calendar. However, I believe that things are proceeding at full speed. You have seen how the representative of President Reagan has returned with perhaps greater momentum than in the past. There was an intention to undermine Ambassador Habib's credibility with the United States and with its President. After our presence in the United States, I found out that Ambassador Habib is returning with more strength than before -- strength backed by his government.

[Question] Did the SAM's deployed in Syria have a negative effect on the acceleration of the negotiations, on the course of the negotiations?

[Answer] All I can say is that, at this time, we find the actions on the part of our Syrian brothers and on the part of the Palestinian resistance encourage us to continue with the removal of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon.

[Question] Not from the Syrian perspective, but from the U.S. perspective, have you discussed this subject?

[Answer] Naturally, this subject was discussed. The Americans attach great importance to it, but not in connection with the removal of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon.

[Question] It is thought that the danger -- of even a partial linkage of the resolution of the Lebanese problem to the issue of the area has been eliminated. However, persistent pressure and intensive efforts are being exerted to push Jordan, or to include Jordan, in the negotiations.

[Answer] It is impossible under any circumstances for the issue of peace in the Middle East to be divided between Lebanon and the area. However, we all know how, prior to the latest development, everybody thought that it was imperative that the Lebanese problem should wait for the general issue in the Middle East to be solved so that peace in Lebanon could be achieved. However, following the Lebanese events, following the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and following the Israeli devastation of Lebanon and the costly price that has been paid in this respect, the Lebanese issue has become the key to peace for the Middle East issue. It is from this point that peace proceeds.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] His Majesty King Husayn, like all the Arabs at this time, seeks peace, too. He has been to London to meet with the British officials at the head of a delegation mandated by the Arab League. This time, the delegation included a representative of Palestine. According to the information, I have received, this visit was very successful; and it is a good step taken toward the achievement of peace in the Arab area.

HABIB CONVEYS ISRAELI STANCE TO AL-JUMAYYIL

NC220844 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil today held a meeting with U.S. presidential envoy Ambassador Habib in the presence of Foreign Minister Elie Salim, Ambassador Morris Draper, and Christopher Ross. Habib conveyed to the president the Israeli answer to the U.S. ideas on the negotiations and withdrawals from Lebanon.

USSR'S KOSHOYEV ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT

JN211320 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Temirbek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and chairman of the Presidium of the Kirgiz SSR Supreme Soviet, arrived in Damascus today at the head of a delegation for a weeklong visit to Syria at the invitation of People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi.

Present at Damascus International Airport to receive the guest delegation were People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi, the heads of the People's Assembly committees, and some assembly members. The Soviet delegation was also received by the Soviet ambassador in Damascus and heads of the Cuban, Vietnamese, and DPRK diplomatic missions in Damascus.

Welcoming Koshoyev and his delegation, Mahmud az-Zu'bi expressed his pleasure with the visit which is bound to further consolidate the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, particularly at the parliamentary level. He also expressed appreciation for the USSR's position in support of the Arab right -- the position that emphasizes the profound Syrian-Soviet friendship and the USSR's commitment toward defending the rights of nations in their struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and racism.

Koshoyev, in a statement to a SANA correspondent, reaffirmed the USSR's tenacious support for Syria, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, and its militant stands in confronting Israel's expansionist policy and thwart the imperialist intrigues and plots in the region.

He reiterated his country's demand for an immediate halt to the Israeli aggression and for the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from Lebanon. Alluding to Israel's rabid propaganda campaign over Syria's necessary and legitimate measures to intensify its defensive capabilities, Koshoyev said this campaign is aimed at finding a pretext to carry out a new aggressive adventure and to obtain additional military aid from the United States. He added that the means to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East region stem from the Fes summit's resolutions and from the Soviet proposal for holding an international summit on the area. The Soviet official held the United States responsible for the massacres and crimes that Israel had committed in Lebanon. He stressed that the heroism of the Palestinian fighters, Lebanese nationalists, and the Syrian Armed Forces had aborted the primary objective of the Zionist enemy which aimed at suppressing the will of the Arab people in confronting the enemy's expansionist and aggressive policy and not weakening Syria's steadfastness.

Koshoyev expressed the hope that his visit to Syria will promote parliamentary relations and consolidate the means of cooperation between the two legislative bodies.

Dinner Speeches Exchanged

JN212121 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 21 Mar (SANA) -- People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi this evening hosted a dinner banquet at Ash-Sharq Club in honor of Temirbek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and chairman of the Presidium of the Kirgiz SSR Supreme Soviet, and his delegation.

Present at the banquet were several members of the Central Command of the Progressive National Front, a number of ministers, the PNC speaker, members of the People's Assembly office, heads of the assmebly's committees, the USSR ambassador in Damascus, and heads of the socialist diplomatic missions.

Mahmud az-Zu'bi and Koshoyev exchanged speeches which expressed the depth of friendship and cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the USSR, underlined the significance of exchanging visits and expertise between the two friendly countries, and reiterated the USSR's support for the Arab struggle for liberation and construction, something that is highly appreciated by the Arab people.

The two speeches also confirmed the importance of further bolstering bilateral relations, particularly parliamentary relations and coordination regarding the joint bilateral and world issues.

The two sides spoke highly of the friendship and cooperation treaty between the two countries under the leadership of the two parties in both countries, President Hafiz al-Asad and Yuriy Andropov.

KHADDAM COMMENT ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENT, SECURITY

JN211324 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has asserted that every nail used in building settlements in the occupied Arab territories is in the long run a nail hammered into the coffin of Israel's security.

In an interview with the British newspaper THE OBSERVER, Khaddam ridiculed the allegation that Israel will swallow up the occupied Arab territories unless the Arabs join the negotiations now.

PALESTINE BROADCAST ON U.S.-ISRAELI THREAT

JN202100 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Palestine broadcast: "On the Events" program]

[Text] U.S. political and diplomatic circles are talking about the completion of a special U.S. plan aimed at containing Arab capabilities to prevent the Arabs from confronting possible joint Israeli-U.S. occupation of more Arab land and the domination of Arab oil producing regions. We note U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger's call to the U.S. Air Force to take into consideration the possibility of placing the Arab oil regions under U.S. control by the beginning of 1986.

In another development, APN said that the green light which the United States gave to the Israeli aggression against Lebanon is still open for another aggression against Syria with the aim of entrenching the Camp David march. It is clear that the premeditated U.S.-Israeli plot to dominate the Arab homeland and its oil resources, will use a strike against the Syrian military capability as its entry point toward imposing control on all this homeland. In return, one would assume that Arab officials throughout the Arab homeland would deeply appreciate that exploiting every available Arab fighting capability in preventing the implementation of the principal objective of the aggressive Zionist-imperialist design will avert an imminent disaster from befalling the whole Arab nation -- if the enemy succeeds in dealing a blow to Syria's military power, the principal Arab military power under the current circumstances.

APN COMMENT ON ISRAEL, U.S. MOVES CITED

JN192031 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] In a commentar on U.S. policy in the Arab region, the Soviet news agency APN said that if some ibs still have any illusions about the U.S. Middle East policy, the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the ruination and destruction of Beirut and Sidon must be sufficient to disillusion them.

The main ideas in the commentary are in the following report:

The green light given by Washington to Israel to launch its aggression against Lebanon continues to permit Israel to launch a new aggression against Syria in an attempt to entrench the Camp David process. The Soviet news agency APN opened its commentary on the situation in the region with this: APN pointed out that the Israeli aggressors are escalating tension in the Al-Biqa' plain and are deploying military units in this area with the aim of beginning a new war in the Middle East.

In this context, the agency said that the Israeli military circles have attempted, through their aggression against Lebanon, to reach new strategic borders from which it will be easier to threaten Syrian territory including the capital, Damascus. APN says that the Camp David godfather Jimmy Carter's tour of the region is within the framework of the farcical U.S. policy in the region, through which the U.S. Administration is trying to appear as though it is following an even-handed policy in the region. APN affirmed that if some Arabs are still having illusions about the U.S. policy in the Middle East, Israel's invasion of Lebanon and the destruction and ruination in Beirut and Sidon must be sufficient to disillusion them.

APN also said that Israel will remain an agent of U.S. imperialism and an active tool to implement U.S. strategy in the Middle East and other parts of the world. It is no coincidence, APN added, that the U.S. Administration regards Israel as a U.S. aircraft carrier stationed between the Mediterranean Sea and the Arab Gulf.

IRANIANS CLASH WITH POLICE AT DAMASCUS AIRPORT

NC220800 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] A clash took place at Damascus International Airport yesterday between Syrian police and about 1,000 Iranian tourists who pasted scores of Imam Khomeyni's pictures on the walls of the new airport halls. The Iranians, who claimed to be tourists, refused to comply with police orders to stop putting up the pictures. A fist fight ensued during which rifle butts were used.

BRIEFS

SANA-TASS TELEGRAPHIC LINK -- A duplex telegraphic link between SANA and TASS became operational yesterday. This link is an important qualitative stride toward promoting relations in the sphere of information at an advanced technical level between the two fraternal countries. [Text] [Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Mar 83 JN]

HAYIM HERZOG ELECTED PRESIDENT BY KNESSET

Knesset Announcement

TA221015 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1002 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Statement by Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor -- live at Knesset]

[Text] I have received the results of the voting for president. I will read you the minutes of the committee for counting votes in the ballot for the election of the president of the country:

We, the undersigned, the members of the committee appointed by the Knesset speaker to count the votes in the ballot for the election of the president of the state that was held at the Knesset session on Tuesday, 22 March 1983, confirm hereby that we have counted the votes, and these are the results: 120 people participated in the vote. Nobody was absent from the session. Those who voted for Menahem Elon: 57. Those who voted for Hayim Herzog: 61. [applause] Blank ballots: 2. Signed: Eli-ezer Avtabi, 'Uzi Bar'am, Roni Milo. [uproar in Knesset]

In accordance with Clause 8 of the basic law: The president of the state, the candidate who received the votes of the majority of the Knesset, is the elected, and I therefore have the honor to declare that the Knesset, at its session today, 22 March 1983, has elected MK Hayim Herzog to serve as president of the state. We, the Knesset speaker and the deputies, will within the hour inform the elected of his election. I must inform the Knesset members, in accordance with Clause 10 of the basic law: The president of the state, that the elected president will give his vow of loyalty to the Knesset on 5 May 1983 at 1300 GMT precisely. This session is over.

Herzog Statement

TA221040 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1028 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Statement by MK Hayim Herzog -- live at Knesset]

[Text] I will tell you the truth: My feeling this morning was good, and that was the feeling of my friends in the Knesset from all factions. That was also the feeling of those who stood beside me during this period: the party chairman, the faction chairman, Moshe Shahal, 'Uzi Bar'am and Avraham Katz-'oz, who worked -- we had this feeling, and my friends, too. It is a fact that -- I even thought this morning to note the results on a piece of paper and leave it with someone, but in the end I did not have the arrogance to do that.

Begin Reaction

TA221055 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1047 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Correspondent Arye Golan has returned from wandering through the Knesset corridors, and perhaps he has heard what the prime minister said in reaction to some of the Likud members.

[Golan] Yes, we have just seen a great gathering of coalition members together with the prime minister as soon as the results were made known. We tried to find out what Menahem Begin's first reaction to this shocking [madhima] result was. Well, the prime minister told the coalition members: This is very regrettable, what has happened here, but this is our democracy and now we must congratulate the president-elect.

In the talk that I held with Hayim Herzog, Herzog said that he had not yet received congratulations from the prime minister, but naturally, during the day, such congratulations will apparently come as expected. The prime minister left the Knesset building immediately after the vote.

He went home to eat lunch and will return here at 1600. It is the assessment that the coalition top ranks and the Cabinet and prime minister himself, as well, were not completely sure that their candidate would receive a majority, and that is really what happened.

SHARON, ARENS CLASH OVER U.S. PROPOSALS

TA210945 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Mar 83 pp 1, 15

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon openly "clashed" with his successor at the Defense Ministry, Professor Moshe Arens, for the first time yesterday in the consultations held in Jerusalem over the U.S. ideas for an arrangement in Lebanon.

In contrast with the generally positive position presented by the prime minister, the defense minister, and the other Cabinet members -- that a considerable part of the U.S. ideas for an arrangement in Lebanon should be accepted after they have been appropriately amended, Sharon argued that the U.S. proposals should not be the basis for an arrangement.

Sharon was also opposed to exchanging information between Israel and the United States on various issues, contrary to Minister Arens' position which calls for deepening Israeli-U.S. cooperation and expanding the direct dialogue between the two countries at the senior level.

The argument over this matter of principle did not acquire personal tones but underlined the differing concept of the defense minister and his predecessor regarding the essence of the arrangement in Lebanon and Israel's objective in the Peace for Galilee war. Sharon's position, which is seconded by Minister Yuval Ne'eman, contends that Israel should not withdraw from Lebanon without securing an Israeli presence in the field, according to the original Israeli demands presented to the United States.

Sharon's almost total isolation in the Cabinet found expression in the consultations held in Jerusalem over the U.S. plan for an arrangement in Lebanon. As said, Minister Ne'eman is an explicit supporter of Sharon's position and, just like him, is opposed to the idea of an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon without maintaining a presence in its territory.

More on Conflict

TA220736 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Mar 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] Former Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon has expressed firm objections to the policies and viewpoints of his successor Moshe Arens on several aspects of the negotiations in Lebanon and other defence issues.

Reliable sources in Jerusalem said that in Sunday's Cabinet meeting and at other ministerial consultations, Sharon angrily and sharply objected to Aren's agreement to allow a U.S. Air Force mission to come to Israel and receive information on the military lessons of the Lebanon war.

In consultations prior to the meeting with U.S. special envoy Philip Habib on Sunday, Sharon firmly opposed more Israeli concessions. Sharon, it is learned, feels Israel should not abandon his demands for a physical Israeli presence in southern Lebanon to supervise the security arrangements. He also opposes an Isreali change in position on the scope of, and elements to be included in, the normalization arrangements with Lebanon.

The sources say that in Sharon's opinion no information on the war and its lessons should be surrendered to the U.S., since there is no signed agreement on such an exchange. But last night, defence sources said that Arens insists that existing agreements between the U.S. and Israel on a variety of subjects also cover the exchange of information about the war in Lebanon. The government has adopted Arens' point of view, and the U.S. Air Force mission is scheduled to arrive within the next few days.

Discussing the clash between Sharon and Arens, political sources in Jerusalem said that Sharon adamantly objects to Arens' line in the talks with Lebanon. Arens, Prime Minister Menahem Begin, and other Cabinet ministers supported more flexibility over the latest U.S. proposals, as discussed between Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Secretary of State George Shultz last week in Washington and at Habib's meeting with the ministerial steering committee on the Lebanese talks on Sunday night.

Political observers in Jerusalem estimated last night that the tensions between Sharon and Arens would intensify and that Sharon would continue to oppose his successor's positions. The observers point out that the Kahan Commission's findings created tensions within various political and military elements and predicted that these might lead to an exchange of accusations within the various branches of the Armed Forces and the government.

WAR DATA, LESSONS TO BE SHARED WITH U.S.

TA211703 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1647 GMT 21 Mar 83

["Defense Ministry spokesman's announcement transmitting Defense Minister Arens' decision" -- ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 21 Mar (ITIM) -- "Israel has decided to share with the United States the information and lessons learned in the Peace for Galilee campaign. As you know, a while after the campaign Israel dealt with collecting the data on the war, sorting it out and processing it. In October 1982, my predecessor, then Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, sent a letter to the U.S. secretary of defense in which he invited the United States to share in the study of these lessons as done after the 6-day and Yon Kippur wars.

"At the end of November 1982, a U.S. delegation visited Israel and initialed an agreement. This agreement is similar in format to previous agreements we had on this issue with the United States. Since then, for 4 months, deliberations have been held between the Israeli and U.S. Governments on endorsing the agreement. Since then, much time has elapsed and misunderstandings have arisen regarding our desire to put all of the information at the disposal of the U.S. Government. We have decided to make possible the start of this process of studying information on the basis of the agreements that have existed for quite a while now between Israel and the United States.

"A first delegation of the U.S. Air Force will arrive at the beginning of April and this will launch the process of transfer of data. Israel is confident that its interests will be honored and that the information will be kept, and care will be taken not to transmit it to foreign hands and other countries without consultation with Israel, as called for by the existing agreements between the two countries.

"Israel believes that this important information it possesses is of great value to the United States and will further tighten and strengthen the security and other relations between the two countries."

COMMENTARY OUTLINES SHAMIR'S TALKS IN WASHINGTON

TA181120 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Mar 83 pp 14, 16

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "President Reagan Told Yitzhaq Shamir: A New Leaf Must Be Turned Over in the Relations Between Me and Prime Minister Begin"]

[Text] "The last page of the relations between the President and the prime minister was one that is to be regretted." U.S. President Ronald Reagan told this to Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this week and added: "And we should turn over a new leaf."

This is perhaps the essence of the message Reagan wanted to send Prime Minister Menahem Begin and which actually promises and improvement in Israeli-U.S. relations which have recently been characterized by endless clashes, if not by a genuine alienation, and upon which U.S. ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis already dwelt this week.

This is simply because Reagan also knows that because of the latest U.S. moves regarding the entire Lebanese problem, not to mention the very fact of the publication of the plan bearing the President's name, doubts have increased here about the good intentions of the administration itself toward Israel. It may have been because of this that he saw fit to emphasize to the foreign minister: "If you are skeptical about the basic friendship I feel for Israel and for Prime Minister Begin, you are simply mistaken...my position toward him has not changed, despite the disputes we have had...."

Shamir: I will tell him this personally....

Ambassador Philip Habib, who was present at the talk, looked at his counterpart and commented, with a sour face, something of this sort: "...He is trying to squeeze an invitation out of him...."

Reagan himself did not react. Perhaps because he had not gotten to the bottom of Shamir's intention, like Philip Habib. He read most of his remarks from the paper that had been prepared for him. When he raised his eyes from what was written he repeated his emphasis that the United States wanted cooperation with Israel and recognized its legitimate security needs in southern Lebanon and that the United States regarded itself as committed to Israel's security and so he expected Israel to rely on the United States.

The atmosphere was good and the tone friendly, but from the practical viewpoint, the President really had nothing to say. It is true that the very fact of the meeting with the Israeli foreign minister, who had come at the President's initiative, was also "something," even if only because Reagan expressed regret at the "harshness" that had echoed in U.S.-Israeli relations over the last few months and saw fit to stress that an end should be put to this and a new leaf turned over. However, we still have to wonder whether the process of "sobering up" mentioned by Moshe Arens on his return from the United States a few weeks ago is already in an advanced stage. There is no doubt that Washington is still imprisoned by its political concept that gave birth to the Reagan plan and the political moves regarding the Lebanese problem, a sort of multipurpose conception that aimed at taking advantage of Israel's situation to achieve several goals at the same time: Turning independent Lebanon into a U.S. protegee fostering links with Syria in the hope of extracting it from the Soviet embrace -- similar to what happened to Egypt in the 1970's -- a "solution to the Palestinian problem" using Jordan on the basis of the Reagan plan, something that, in the estimation of the United States, was likely to satisfy Saudi Arabia and the other "moderate" Arab countries and by so doing to "rid oneself" of the Soviet influence. It is already clear now to Washington it seems, that it will not succeed with such a multipurpose approach and it is ready to be satisfied with much more modest achievements.

In order to also rescue what can be rescued in Lebanon, from the Lebanese point of view, the United States needs cooperation from Israel, and first of all, the evacuation of its forces from Lebanese soil.

Superficially, there were grounds to assume that if Secretary of State Shultz had invited the Israeli foreign minister to Washington (and it is not at all important whether the initiative for this came from Israel), this indicated a willingness to move toward Israel. After all, there was no need to trouble Shamir and ask him to go to the United States in order to tell him what Israel has heard all the time from Philip Habib. But this assumption was proved false. If any genuine progress was noted, as Foreign Minister Shamir hinted on his return to Israel, its test will only be in reality, in U.S. willingness to translate its avowed commitment to Israel's security into action.

In any event, this was not the situation at the beginning of Shamir's talks there. Reagan also still spoke in terms of "Israeli conquest" and said that just as it would be inconceivable for the United States to ask for bases for itself in Canada or Mexico, so Israel should not ask for bases for itself in... Lebanon. The "imagery" may have been thought up by the President, but the contents were written. This means that the ghost writers who prepared this document are still trying to dismiss Israel and give nothing in return for removing its forces from Lebanon. It is true that the experts whom Secretary of State Shultz brought with him to the talks with Foreign Minister Shamir (Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger honored the talk between the teams with only a short presence) wanted to prove to Israel that it could leave Lebanon and that they were convinced that the Lebanese Army could fulfill the mission as it should and guarantee what Israel wants guaranteed: That the terrorists should not reorganize to the point of becoming able to threaten Israel's north.

If U.S. "experts" are capable of saying such nonsense, this means that a genuine U.S. sobering-up is still very far away.

Before Reagan took his leave of his Israeli guest he managed to express the hope that Jordan would join the negotiating process and to point to Jordan's "security problems" that have worsened recently because of Syria's threats to it. That is, it is Syria that has reinforced itself with the Soviet missiles. We did not hear that President Reagan expanded on the need for U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation in view of the dangers springing from the changes that have occurred in Syria against the background of the modern missiles and the thousands of Soviet "advisers." But we did understand that because of the "threats" to Jordan, the United States wants to convince Israel to remove its opposition to the United States supplying weapons to Jordan and, what is more, the President expressed the wish that Israel would influence "your coreligionists in the United States" (that is: the Jewish lobby and the Jewish organizations in the United States) not to come out against the U.S.-Jordanian arms deal.

However, after all, the conclusion of the talk with the President, like its beginning, was characterized by a good atmosphere. Shamir, who asked after Reagan's health on behalf of Prime Minister Begin, told the President: "I am convinced that you are a friend to Israel and that you are concerned for its security...."

Reagan: Yes, you should have no doubts about that... Your security occupies absolutely first place in our thoughts....

After about 30 minutes, Reagan asked: Do we still have something to discuss?...

Shultz: No, no Mr President, you have done a good job....

Reagan: That is what I am generally told when people want me to conclude and get out....

And it was in this intimate, joking atmosphere that the leavetaking took place.

This occurred on Tuesday, the foreign minister's last day in Washington. Many questions have been left hanging in the air, although both the President and, primarily, Secretary of State Shultz repeated their emphasis that Israel's security was so close to their hearts.

The next day, Wednesday, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir returned to Jerusalem with the message that the United States had raised "new ideas" without going into detail about their nature. It was agreed that these ideas would be presented in Jerusalem in detail before the Cabinet's weekly session on Sunday, 20 March.

Is there any chance of reaching an agreement in the wake of Foreign Minister Shamir's visit?

The impression is that the agreement in Lebanon is close. This is based on the accepted assumption that what is acceptable to the United States will also be acceptable to Lebanon and that if such an agreement is achieved it will be thanks to Secretary of State George Shultz' sincere efforts. It is true that Philip Habib, who is scheduled to return here next week, accompanied by Ambassador Morris Draper, will have to do the work. But Habib already knows that what he proposed to Israel " in Lebanon's name" will not be accepted by Israel.

During the first talk, with the participation of the teams, between Shamir and Shultz, Philip Habib was still using his old method: "Lebanon will not accept this." He did not always speak in his own name, but in that of Lebanon. But Shultz remarked on this to him more than once....

If there has indeed been a change in the U.S. position, thanks to the understanding that the U.S. secretary of state has begun to show there is no doubt that this change began to be marked at the moment Shamir said firmly: "If this [antecedent not clear] is so, I am going home. I know exactly what the significance of this is. If there is no agreement there will, perhaps, be a confrontation between us and the United States, but you must understand that there are things we will not be able to accept. If an agreement is wanted, fine. If you have entered the negotiations instead of Lebanon, you must show understanding of Israel's genuine security problems. If this is what you are proposing, I have nothing to return with...."

Shultz: This is really worrisome.... And after quite a few seconds of silence, Shultz said to Shamir: Give me several hours. This was about an hour before the foreign minister's scheduled flight to Israel.

Somehow or other they began to work out "new ideas" and what could not, for some reason, be arrived at at the beginning of the talks, was made possible before the return home. Shultz understood that Shamir's return to Jerusalem empty-handed would only make the situation worse. The question was not, in fact, with what would Shamir return, but with what Philip Habib would return, since in these circumstances the problem might not concern what he was returning with but whether he was returning.

What has been accomplished is not yet to be welcomed. So far we only know of "new ideas" in a general way, but what will be decisive regarding Israel are actually the details, and sometimes even the small details. Therefore we must wait and see exactly what will be brought to the Cabinet in Sunday. In the meantime we can only say this: The fact that the U.S. secretary of state does not always incline toward listening to experts' views could really advance an agreement that would be far from satisfying Israel's original expectations but would leave it in possession of reasonable measures permitting it to achieve an important part of its security objectives in Lebanon.

One of Shultz' predecessors in his post, Dr Henry Kissinger, has already said: Foreign policy noted with praise by history has been the fruit of leaders and was opposed by the experts...."

And one of the experts in this case is Philip Habib. If you like, Shamir's very visit to Washington and the discussions with him in which Secretary of State Shultz played a central role constitute, as THE WASHINGTON POST noted, an indirect expression of nonconfidence in Ambassador Habib.

The truth is that Habib has circumvented himself. He was the one who determined what the "Lebanese positions" were. It was he who acted according to the rule he set for himself that whatever the United States says (especially to Lebanon) must be accepted. There are indications that Habib's methods were not acceptable in Washington either, at least not to Shultz.

From this point of view it is interesting to follow the Shamir-Shultz talks during the foreign minister's stay in Washington.

The first thing that stood out was that Shultz did not accept Habib's formula of "the Lebanese will not accept this" and "the Lebanese will not accept that." Shultz wanted to know what exactly are the Israelis' fears and sensitivies. What will they be able to give up and not less important, what they could not give up, from their point of view, and how is it possible to reconcile the true differences. This may have been what impelled Shultz to meet Shamir and the members of his team. Habib's report was apparently one dimensional, even for his taste.

A second prominent point in Shultz's approach and one which was very visible in the course of the talk was his patience. At one point in the first talk, on Sunday, which lasted about 4 hours and was devoted entirely to a presentation of Israel's positions by the various experts, Major General Avraham Tamir raised his voice. However, Shultz accepted this with understanding. It happened when one of the U.S. experts said that there was no need for an Israeli presence in southern Lebanon because the Lebanese Army could control the terrorists. Tamir cried: What are you talking about -- nonsense! We have already seen the Lebanese Army's capability in action. Before a special antiterrorist unit can be set up, you must first establish an army with a normal and topnotch command, and only when the foundation of an efficient army exists does it become possible to discuss special units. Perhaps in a year or two the Lebanese Army will be fit for action, but in the condition it is in today, are you suggesting that we rely on it?

It is interesting that Shultz not only accepted Tamir's remarks with understanding including his "outbursts," but also advised his men (some 30 people): "Listen to what the general is saying."

Furthermore, after the talk, Shultz went up to Tamir and said: "I want you to know that I understood the content and spirit of what you said."

It is not surprising that an intelligent man like George Shultz understood the words and their meaning: After all we have sacrificed in Lebanon, said Tamir, you want us to entrust our security to a Lebanese antiterrorism unit that has finished a 2-week course?

Directing his words to the Pentagon experts, Tamir said: Does the Lebanese Army have intelligence worthy of the name, effective equipment which it knows how to use properly, and training on a high professional level?

Indeed, the questions did not remain in a vacuum. Some of the Americans present took in what Tamir said. And in this respect, Shamir's trip together with a team of experts was worthwhile.

A third point deserves mention: Shultz took this meeting seriously from the outset. Only this can explain his having brought to the talk the who's who connected with these matters -- officials from the Pentagon, the CIA, the State Department, and the National Security Council -- about 30 people.

The first talk began with a few words from Foreign Minister Shamir who came to clarify Israel's minimum, non-negotiable demands. He began by saying: We wanted peace with Lebanon, and what is wrong with peace. We also wanted a limited presence in the security zone in southern Lebanon. We had no doubts about the Lebanese administration's intention to rule over all of Lebanon, but the problem was not the Lebanese administration's intentions, but its ability to control the situation after the Israeli forces' withdrawal.

You said, Shamir told Shultz, that peace -- a full peace -- between Israel and Lebanon is a difficult thing. Let us assume that this is so. Well, we said, let us think together what can be done to find a suitable substitute. We suggested a staged withdrawal, over 30 [as published] years, jointly checking the situation every 6 months and proceeding to the next stage of withdrawal if possible. You did not accept this either. You claimed that this "eternalizes the occupation." Thus we have reached the very minimum for ensuring suitable security arrangements in the 40-50 km security zone in southern Lebanon, taking into consideration the weakness of the administration in Lebanon. We demanded a certain presence, limited and temporary, but you claimed that this would damage Lebanon's sovereignty, as we heard a few times from Mr Habib. But you will agree with me that there are many countries which, because of the situation, allow a neighbouring country, following a dispute, a temporary presence until a permanent solution is found. Even As-Sadat agreed at the time, at a certain stage in the Camp David talks, to joint Egyptian-Israeli patrols (and afterwards changed his mind in the face of 'Ali's and Ghali's position). Do joint patrols also constitute a breach of sovereignty? All of a sudden you become fanatic about the sovereignty Lebanon has not had for 12 years and we are talking about an arrangement [hesder], Shamir clarified, for a 2-year period. We hope to be able to get out earlier. But if you are talking about a "breach of sovereignty," then the very presence of UNIFIL and the multinational force on Lebanese soil also constitutes a breach of sovereignty...

Shultz was ready to say with a smile: I'll give you one point over me at this stage... but he was not willing to accept the idea that as part of security arrangements in southern Lebanon there will be a presence [sentence as published].

On the second day of the meeting the discussion was devoted mainly to representing the U.S. stands and we had already discussed the ridiculous suggestions presented to Israel (that the Lebanese Army will maintain security and will prevent the reorganization of the terrorists, aided by UNIFIL and the multinational force in various points in the security zone). The Israeli reaction was unequivocal: There is nothing behind the U.S. proposals, and what is actually being suggested to Isreal is that it take all the risks and withdraw from Lebanon with security arrangements that from the outset cannot ensure Israel's security.

Nonetheless, it did not seem at this stage that the U.S. side is willing to move toward Israel. After removing the cover of wordage from "the responsibility to the security of Israel" and the practical proposals, Habib's proposals were left as they were detailed in the two documents which were rejected by the government. All this involved security, the key subject in the whole discussion. The essence: no Israeli presence; no joint IDF-Lebanese patrols; and not even readiness for Major Haddad's forces to be a central element in southern Lebanon.

All that was suggested were castles in the air: the Lebanese Army as the only element for ensuring the security in southern Lebanon, including the foiling of terrorist acts and the reorganization of the terrorists headquarters (something which has already started in West Beirut, from where recent actions of the terrorists are coming), as well as "coordination" ... "contacts between commanders"... "supervision"....

It was now clear that even Shultz did not try to show any understanding for an Israeli presence of any kind. Moreover, the Americans wanted to uproot even Haddad's forces. Not only do they oppose leaving Haddad at the head of his forces, they also wanted to make the forces, according to a suggestion apparently from Philip Habib, undergo a process of "integration" with the Lebanese Army. What does "integration" mean? Among other things, it was said, the "criminal elements" and the "various criminals" should be removed from them....

Israel expressed great wonderment: For years there were no courts and no trials in southern Lebanon, so why, all of a sudden, this treatment of "criminals." It was clearly understood, the Israelis thought, that this is nothing but a "trick," through which some selection is intended in order to weed out of Haddad's army anybody that the administration does not want, and the rest will be integrated in the Lebanese Army. Haddad himself, of course, will not be put at the head of "Haddad's forces."

Shamir said: We do not understand exactly what you mean by "integration." We can only tell you this, Mr Secretary of State: We want Haddad to stay, and on this matter we will make no concessions.

Shultz reacted: So, do I understand that in this matter we have reached a "dead breaker" -- something that cannot be overcome and that apparently scuttles the entire deal?

Shamir said: I do not know how you interpret things, but it must be clear that Haddad must stay and that we will not give him up. He must remain in southern Lebanon and nowhere else. (It had been published that he would be granted the "honor" of being appointed to a senior post abroad).

Afterwards, Shamir would explain to Shultz in their private talk Haddad's importance to Israel. Haddad is the glue holding together the force built in southern Lebanon. It seems that Shultz finally understood Israel's view about Haddad and became convinced that Israel would make no concessions on this matter.

Israel's flexibility was also manifest in the discussion on normalization. Shamir made it clear that we want substance and that the name given it is unimportant. Therefore, Israel can compromise both on the date when the components of normalization will formally be agreed upon, on the condition that the substance be implemented immediately.

For truth's sake, with all the understanding Shultz began to show for Israel's motives, he did not commit himself for the time being to anything conclusive. Thus, for example, Shultz understands that continuing the boycott against Israel is not reconcilable with terminating the state of war. However, he does not accept the Israeli demand that in the context of normalization, Lebanon declare its dissociation from the Arab boycott. Shultz told Shamir: "What you are proposing means standing on the roof of the main building in Beirut and declaring the abolition of the boycott; and that they cannot do."

Shamir said: But that is exactly what Lebanon should do -- even by passing law. Is it conceivable that the state of war be terminated and the boycott against Israel continue?

In summing up, real progress was marked in the U.S. understanding -- or more precisely in that of George Shultz -- but time will still be needed to translate this understanding into action and formulations.

At first glance it seems that on the question of the Israeli presence -- not the stationary one, but the mobile one -- and even on the question of Haddad the saving formulation will be found, if only it emerges that the "new ideas" contain, in terms of contents, the elements included in Shamir's bottom line plan. In any case, this was apparently Shamir's own impression, for before he concluded his last discussion with Shultz, he told him: I see that you are abstaining from contact with Syria and the PLO. We believe that by this you are giving the world the impression that it is Israel which is delaying a settlement in Lebanon.

However, beyond this I would ask you, Mr. Shultz, to note that we will not reopen an agreement if you come and tell us that the Syrians are unwilling to accept what has been agreed on among us. So I am telling you now that without a simultaneous withdrawal, and unless our prisoners and missing are returned, nothing will budge.

ARENS REPEATS PROPOSALS ON IDF, MARINES IN BEIRUT

TA211710 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] The defense minister today met with U.S. mediator Philip Habib, his deputy Morris Draper, and with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis. In the meeting the defense minister again raised Israel's proposals regarding the arrangements between the IDF and the U.S. Marines in the Beirut area. Israel asks that officers of the two armies be stationed in each other's commands and that a direct communications line be established to prevent arguments and clashes.

BEIRUT IDF COMMANDER ON MARINE ACCUSATIONS

TA211812 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] The commander of the IDF in Beirut, Brig Gen Amnon Lipkin, expressed surprise today that the U.S. Marines described the IDF as the greatest enemy in the region.

He was speaking to an AP correspondent in reaction to the Marine commander's claims that IDF soldiers shoot indiscriminately during their patrols, thus endangering the Marines. Gen Lipkin clarified that the IDF soldiers had received strict orders to refrain from any confrontation with the Marines and he denied that they shoot indiscriminately in areas where there are multinational force soldiers or civilians.

Further Remarks

TA212017 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] The commander of the IDF in Lebanon [as heard], Brigadier General Amnon Lipkin, says that the IDF soldiers received strict instructions to refrain from any confrontation with the U.S. Marines. He denied the claim by the Marines' commander that the IDF soldiers fire indiscriminately during their patrols, endangering the Americans' lives. According to him, the IDF soldiers never open fire in areas where Americans or Lebanese civilians are present. The IDF soldiers open fire only in empty places regarding which the army possesses suspicious information.

Gen Lipkin says that tighter and more consistent contacts with the Marines may have prevented most of the claims, but the United States is opposed to this. Talking about the recent terrorist acts directed at the multinational force's soldiers in Lebanon, the IDF commander said it seems that all of these acts were coordinated and organized.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT ANALYZES INCIDENTS WITH MARINES

TA211127 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Mar 83 p 11

[Commentary by Zalman Shoval: "Behind the Incident With the Marines"]

[Text] What lies behind the letter of complaint by U.S. Marine Commandant General Robert Barrow (and its definitely deliberate leak to the U.S. media) and the no less complaining (and self-righteous) reaction of U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger? Steve Rosen, the director of the research department of the official pro-Israeli lobby in Washington, argues that Weinberger harbors a pathological hatred of Israel, wages calumnious campaigns against it, and seizes every opportunity for provoking it and for pressuring to impose sanctions against it. I do not regard myself as an authority to pass judgment on the psychoanalytic aspect of the problem -- but I am afraid that if there is madness then "there is method in his madness," as Shakespeare said, and that is far more serious...

Let us first deal with the facts: Since their arrival in Beirut, the U.S. Marines have gone out of their way to display their detachment and separation from the IDF. Although this could be interpreted as part of an attempt to prove the world that the United States is neutral and impartial, I am afraid that both the explicit order to **the** U.S. Marines not to have any contacts with the IDF and the exacerbation of all kinds of incidents in the field stemming to a large extent from that order indicate that the secretary in charge of the defense establishment in Washington has more far-reaching intentions on these questions.

It is a fact that Mr Weinberger used to be a senior executive of "Bechtel," a gigantic concern with broad trade relations in the Arab world. However, it would be a mistake to ignor the fact that Weinberger's positions and declarations actually reflect an approach toward Israel subscribed to by wider circles in the United States.

It would be a mistake to assert that the current U.S. Administration is essentially anti-Israel. President Reagan and many of his aides regard themselves as friends of the State of Israel. It is known that Secretary of State Shultz, for instance, is opposed to "the confrontation approach" toward Israel (althought he probably does not regard it as a topmost ally as his predecessor Haig did).

At the same time, however, the current U.S. Administration does not include explicit pro-Israel elements as was generally the case in the past. It is known, for example, that there has been a quasi-disconnection [kim'at meteq] between the Israeli Embassy in Washington and the White House in the last year, an unprecedented occurrence in the history of the Israeli-U.S. relationship.

Moreover, Weinberger is apparently not the only one who is consciously ready to not only bring about a confrontation between the United States and Israel, but also to bring about a crisis between the administration and the Jewish community in spite of the upcoming presidential elections. In an election year, U.S. politicians -- including the president himself -- usually try not to do anything that might upset their constituents, especially their money donors.

Therefore, today there is a chance that upon the approach of the presidential elections in November 1984, the administration will strive to avert tensions with the U.S. Jewry on the Israeli issue. However, there are also other and opposite tendencies within the Republican Party and the White House. According to the latter line of thought, the administration would be well advised to deliberately bring about a confrontation with Israel in order to enable it carry out its Middle East policy (the Reagan plan, arms supplies to Jordan and Saudi Arabia and perhaps even to Iraq, and so forth) uninterruptedly and without any consideration of the "Jewish factor."

The Jews would then find themselves faced with the dilemma of choosing between their support for Israel and the so-called "U.S. national interest" while the known accusation of "dual loyalty" hovers over their heads. However, a certain background and atmosphere must be created to this end, and what could be more efficient than the call: "Look at what these Israelis are doing to our boys in Beirut!?"

Hence, it is clear that we should not regard the incidents with the Marines in Beirut, the U.S. general's letter, and Mr Weinberger's reaction as an incidental chain of events of local and limited importance. On the contrary, precisely because we are aware of the dangerous political trends behind these incidents, and that they were blown out of all proportions, we should try to restrain ourselves as much as possible and do our best not to provide any possible excuse to those seeking a confrontation between us and the U.S. people.

Hence, Defense Minister Arens proceeded correctly when he proposed new arrangements about liaison between the IDF and the U.S. Marines and their respective jurisdiction because, if accepted by the U.S. secretary of defense, this will contribute to calming tempers. Also, if these arrangements are rejected this will make it easier for us to explain to the American people who is really to blame for what is happening in Beirut these days.

REPORTAGE ON SOVIET MISSILES BASED IN SYRIA

Sites in Damascus, Homs

TA211918 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] A REUTER correspondent in Damascus says that the new SAM-5's that the Soviet Union supplied to Syria have been stationed near Damascus and Homs. The correspondent said that apparently 2,000 Soviet military men are in charge of operating these missiles and that they do not involve the Syrians in this. Third World diplomats told the correspondent that the Soviet missiles do not alter the balance of forces in the Middle East, and that they are more nuisance to the United States than a real danger. The main reason these missiles were sent, the diplomats said, is that Syria was left without any real aerial defenses after the war in Lebanon.

Gromyko Warning

TA181814 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] The Soviet foreign minister has warned Israel not to provoke Syria since this will endanger world peace. Andrey Gromyko told a Libyan delegation that the United States too shoulders responsibility for Israel's acts.

Tense Atmosphere Noted

TA210939 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Mar 83 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Dalya Shehori]

[Text] Jerusalem regards the growing Soviet presence in Syria and the stationing of SAM-5's manned by Soviet experts in Al-BIQA's as a Soviet-Syrian attempt to create a tense atmosphere in anticipation of a possible agreement between Israel and Lebanon.

It is pointed out in Jerusalem that both Israel and the United States do not know what Syria's reaction will be when an agreement is reached between Israel and Lebanon. As recalled, U.S. UN Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick said last week that President al-Asad had promised in New Delhi that Syria would evacuate its forces from Lebanon. Nevertheless, the Syrian promise does not seem to be sufficiently clear. It is assessed that Syria is currently deliberately conducting vague diplomacy.

ALGERIA, TUNISIA SIGN FRIENDSHIP, BORDER AGREEMENTS

LD191326 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Excerpts] We are in direct link with the radio representative in Tunis to tell us about the visit of President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and general secretary of the FLN Party, to the Republic of Tunisia.

At about 1130 President Bendjedid, president of the republic and general secretary of the party, and President Habib Bourguiba signed a treaty of friendship and concord and a special agreement for the demarcation of the border between the two sister countries Algeria and Tunisia. Thus Tunisia is the third country with which Algeria has signed an agreement for the demarcation of borders. Members of both delegations attended the signing ceremony, which took place in the Carthage palace.

This morning President Bendjedid received Chedli Klibi, general secretary of the Arab League, at his residence in As-Sa'adah Palace in the suburbs of Tunis.

After President Bendjedid and President Bourguiba signed the treaty of friendship and concord and the agreement concerning the demarcation of the border, both Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahami, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, and Beji Caid es-Sebsi signed minutes of the meetings.

Text of Joint Communique

LD202216 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Mar 83

["Text" of Algerian-Tunisian communique issued 20 March following visit by Algerian President Chadli Bencjedid to Tunisia]

[Text] At the invitation of the great combatant His Excellency President Bourguiba, president of the Tunisian Republic, and his wife, His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and secretary general of the FLN Party, and his wife paid an official visit to the Tunisian Republic 18-20 March 1983.

The communique states [as heard] that this visit took place within the framework of the fraternal relations that exist between the Republic of Algeria and the Tunisian Republic and within the framework of strengthening the historical, deep-rooted ties linking the two fraternal peoples. It also took place to strengthen the relations of brotherhood and unity of struggle on the path along which they have met and joined forces for the sake of defending the rights of the greater Arab Maghreb, of safeguarding their dignity, and realizing the aspirations of their masses for liberation, development, and prosperity.

President Chadli Bendjedid was accompanied by an important high-level delegation. The Tunisian Republic, its president, government, and people, accorded the distinguished guest and the brothers who accompanied him a very warm welcome that projected the strength of the fraternal ties that link the two fraternal peoples.

In an atmosphere of true fraternity and understanding, the two leaders -- His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid and His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba -- held a series of talks dealing with bilateral relations, the development of conditions in the Arab Maghreb, Arab and African issues, and the current international situation. These talks confirmed the identity of the two sides' views toward most of these issues.

His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid also received Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali. Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and Beji Caid es-Sebsi, the foreign ministers of the two countries, presided over a working meeting that included members of the Algerian and Tunisian delegations.

The two presidents expressed their profound satisfaction with the positive development of bilateral relations and with the achievements of the numerous meetings that have brought together officials from the two countries. They affirmed the need to continue contacts at various levles, to work for increasing the development of cooperation, and to finalize the drafting of coordination and integration plans in the political, economic, and social, information, cultural, and other spheres in response to the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples to build a better future and realize more progress and strength.

To manifest this political will, the two heads of state signed a treaty of fraternity and loyalty, and also an agreement concerning the demarcation of the border between the two countries. The two sides agreed to intensify meetings between officials of the two countries and between technical experts who specialize in planning, industry, trade, investment, and other fields, to establish fruitful cooperation in these fields, and to set up joint projects under the policy of cooperation and integration between the two fraternal countries.

The two sides paid special attention in this connection to joint projects to develop the border areas of the two countries because of their historic significance, the leading role they have played, and because their inhabitants have displayed spontaneous solidarity and cooperation during the stages of the liberation wars in the two countries. They affirmed their resolve to provide all means for these areas so that they can perform their real task which basically is aimed at ending the role of the border as a barrier separating brothers and turning it into a bridge that units the interests of the two countries.

In the industrial field they decided to establish industrial projects such as a factory for low-power diesel engines at Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf, a factory for (Baruv) material, and cement plant at (Viryana).

The two sides agreed to intensify consultations and coordination in the sphere of planning and to take the necessary measures for gradually arriving at a unified customs tariff between the two countries for the purpose of developing trade exchange.

Aware of the importance of the role of information in strengthening fraternity and cohension between the two fraternal peoples, the two sides decided to strengthen and expand cooperation in all fields of contact and to devote the information media to serving the desire of the two peoples for greater acquaintance and rapprochement in a way that conforms to the political will of the two countries. The two sides believe that the Algerian-Tunisian joint committee is the suitable framework for organizing this cooperation and finalizing its details and is an effective instrument for discussing such activities and following up the implementation of joint projects decided within its framework.

It has been decided that the joint committee will meet in Algiers in the second half of April 1983 and will pay particular attention to completing legal measures for the following: a protocol on industrial cooperation, a protocol between the Algierian and Tunisian treasuries, a protocol on abolishing dual taxation between the two countries, and a consular agreement.

It was also agreed to exchange experiences between the Algerian and Tunisian Armies, to increase visits between officials at the Defense Ministries of both countries, and to have national servicemen contribute to joint development projects in the border areas.

To strengthen cooperation between the FLN Party and the Socialist Destour Party, the two sides decided to create joint committees to meet periodically in Algiers and Tunis, to hold joint conferences, and to organize meetings at the level of the organizations belonging to the two parties.

The two sides reaffirmed that they will continue efforts to prepare a suitable climate for the building of the Arab Maghreb on the bases of fraternity, cooperation, solidarity, and common interest and mutual respect, and to do everything possible to bring the countries of the region closer to that objective with the unity of religion, language, and culture common to all of them and out of loyalty to the common struggle they waged for regaining their dignity, freedom, and independence.

His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba expressed his deep satisfaction with the meeting between His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid and His Majesty King Hassan II and the fact that this meeting was another incentive for continuing joint action for the consolidation of the bonds of fraternity, cooperation, and integration among all countries of the Arab Maghreb in an atmosphere of harmony and amity and was an important step along the path of the joint Arab action.

Arising from the two sides' belief in the inevitability of continuing joint action to build the edifice of the greater Arab Maghreb on the bases of fraternity, solidarity, integration, and common interest, the two sides reaffirm the necessity of finding a peaceful and permanent solution to the question of the Western Sahara according to the resolutions of the OAU summit conference held in Nairobi in June 1981.

With regard to relations between the countries of the Arab Maghreb and the European Common Market, the two sides reaffirm that no EEC policy can be taken into consideration unless it recognizes the legitimate and vital interests of the countries of the Arab Maghreb, including the circumstances of their communities working in the European countries.

The sides reviewed the situation in the Arab arena and reaffirmed in particular their resolve to continue their action for the consolidation of Arab solidarity and the unification of ranks to confront the Zionist enemy and to support the struggle of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of their sole and legitimate representative, the PLO, for regaining their usurped rights and the establishment of their national independent state and Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including the city of holy Jerusalem. While reaffirming their commitment to respecting the Palestinian decision, they pledge anew to render every assistance and support to the PLO, especially with regard to the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the 16th session of the PNC held in Algiers.

The two sides stressed the Arab unanimity which was evident at the Fes summit and reaffirmed the necessity of preserving this unanimity as it helps to maintain suitable conditions -- Arab and international -- for facilitating the implementation of the Arab peace plan.

The two sides stress the necessity of supporting Lebanon in order to confront the Zionist plans aimed at tearing apart Lebanon's territorial integrity and violating its sovereignty and the necessity of Israel's immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Lebanese territory according to the resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the Security Council.

The two sides expressed their concern at the war between Iraq and Iran and expressed their hope that a just and peaceful settlement will be reached between the two fraternal Muslim countries.

On the African level, the two sides renewed their support for the struggle of the peoples of Namibia and southern Africa for freedom, independence, and dignity and appeal to the world conscience to resist the policy of racial discrimination and colonialist domination being imposed by the white minority in southern Africa on the people of Namibia, in which this minority meets with Zionism. The two sides condemned the repeated racist attacks by the racist Pretoria regime against the neighboring African countries.

They also stressed the importance of consolidating solidarity and cooperation between the African Continent and the Arab countries in view of their common history and in view of the fact that they are waging a single battle against a single common enemy and are motivated by one hope for a future in which domination and exploitation are eliminated.

The Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and the Republic of Tunisia expres their deep concern at the many areas of tension in the world and the complications these may create in international relations. They express anew their attachment to the principles of the UN Charter, the Arab League Charter, the Islamic Conference Organization and the OAU, and the fundamental principles of the Nonaligned Movement. They reaffirm their determination to consolidate these principles on the basis of fruitful cooperation within the framework of mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs.

The two sides renewed their adherence to the Nonaligned Movement and their resolve to cooperate strongly in order to preserve the principles and unity of this movement, to consolidate its role as an important factor that helps to solve the problems faced by the international community, and to facilitate the consolidation of world peace and strengthen its effectiveness. In this connection the two sides expressed their satisfaction with the results of the Seventh Summit Conference of the Nonaligned States held in New Delhi.

The two sides reviewed the situation in the Mediterranean and expressed their determination to work for the consolidation of the relations of cooperation among the countries of this region and to make the Mediterranean a lake of security, peace, and cooperation.

The two sides devoted particular attention to the international economic situation and reaffirmed the necessity of strengthening relations of cooperation among all countries of the South, of coordinating their actions in a manner that helps to create a balance between the two sides in the comprehensive negotiations within the framework of the North-South dialogue and helps in reaching the establishment of a new international economic system which takes into consideration the legitimate interests of the developing countries and recognizes the principles of justice, equality, and balance which should prevail in the international relations in various spheres.

His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid and the delegation accompanying him participated in Tunisia's celebrations of its independence anniversary and visited the struggling town of Bizerta. His excellency expressed his appreciation for and admiration of what he saw during his visit to the Tunisian Republic in terms of progress and construction and the significant achievements being realised by Tunisia in all fields under the leadership of the supreme combatant His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba and his wise government.

He also expressed his and his delegation's thanks for the warm hospitality and welcome they received in a manner benefitting the distinguished fraternal bonds between the two fraternal countries.

His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid and his wife extended an invitation to his brother the supreme combatant His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba and his wife to pay an official visit to Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. This invitation was accepted with thanks and gratitude. Its date will be fixed in due course.

SUDAN

TEXT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH SOUTH KOREA

JN181912 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 18 (SUNA) -- A 14-point joint communique was issued in Khartoum and Seoul Friday afternoon (Sudan local time) at the end of a 4-day state visit to Korea by President Numayri in response to an invitation extended by the president of the Republic of Korea, Chon Tu-hwan. The visit extended from 14th to 17th of March.

Full text of the communique follows:

1) At the invitation of His Excellency Chon Tu-hwan, president of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan paid a state visit to the Republic of Korea from 14th to 17th March 1983. The Sudanese head of state was accompanied by the minister of finance and economic planning, the minister of foreign affaires, and the Cabinet ministers and high-ranking government officials.

2) During his visit, President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri paid a courtesy call on President Chon Tu-hwan at the Blue House. President Chon Tu-hwan conferred the Grand Order of Mugunghwa of the Republic of Korea to President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri. President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri laid a wreath at the monument of unknown soldier in the national cemetery. He also made tours to an industrial complex and a shipyard in the southern part of Korea.

3) The two heads of state discussed matters of mutual concern in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. They noted with satisfaction that the friendly and cooperative relations between the Republic of Korea and the Democratic Republic of the Sudan have been strengthened in various fields and they agreed to broaden the scope of their cooperation so as to further promote and consolidate the existing friendly ties.

4) The two heads of state exchanged views on the current international situation in general and the Middle East, Africa and East Asia in particular, and shared the view that world peace and security depend on the respect of sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity of states as well as the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other states and that all international disputes should be solved not by force but through peaceful negotiation.

5) Based on this position, President Chon Tu-hwan expressed his support to the just cause of Arab states to bring about a durable peace in the Middle East and assured President Numayri of the position of the Government of the Republic of Korea to support the earnest efforts of Arab states aimed at peaceful solution of the Middle East question.

Recalling that the Government of the Republic of Korea has made a series of official statements regarding its Middle East policy on various occasions since December 15, 1973, President Chon reaffirmed the position of the Korean Government that the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people including their right to self-determination and their independent and sovereign state, which are in perfect harmony with the relevant UN resolutions, should be respected. President Chon also expressed the view that the PLO is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that Israel should withdraw from all Arab territories occupied since the 1967 war including Jerusalem.

6) The two heads of state also reaffirmed the common policy of their governments to oppose all forms of racial discrimination. In exchanging the view of the latest developments in the southern region of Africa, they reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the people of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO to full independence and supported UN Security Council efforts to bring peace to the area. They also stressed the necessity for the total liquidation of obnoxious system of apartheid in South Africa, and elimination of minority rule from that country.

7) President Chon expressed his deep admiration to President Numayri for the national integrity and the political stability which have been achieved in the Democratic Republic of the Sudan under the far-sighted leadership of His Excellency President Numayri. President Chon also admired the remarkable progress in the socio-economic fields achieved by the Sudanese people under the leadership of President Numayri.

8) President Chon Tu-hwan, reviewing the situation on the Korean peninsula, explained the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Korea to reduce tensions and consolidate peace on the Korean peninsula with a view to achieving the reunification of Korea by peaceful means, particularly his latest proposal for democratic reunification through national reconciliation. President Numayri, fully supporting the said efforts and initiatives of the Republic of Korea aimed at peaceful reunification, assured his Korean counterpart that the Sudanese Government would continue to support the position of the Korean Government at all international forums. In this context, President Numayri expressed his view that the entry of both the South and North Koreans into the United Nations would help create a favorable atmosphere conducive to the peaceful achievement of the ultimate reunification of the Korean peninsula.

9) The two presidents, reviewing the current world economic situation which is in a state of disarray, shared the common view that the present worldwide economic recession is mainly due to the widespread trade protectionism, especially imposed by the industrialized countries upon the developing countries. Parting from this point of view, they came to the conclusion that the multilateral cooperation among the developing countries is as much important as the South-North dialogue aimed at achieving the new international economic order.

10) The two heads of state expressed their willingness to exchange their development experiences in a good partnership based on the reciprocity and equality, especially in the field of rural, agricultural, and industrial development. They noted with satisfaction that a number of joint ventures have been undertaken in recent years in such fields as construction and manufacturing. They further agreed to encourage the successful implementation of such joint ventures.

11) The two heads of state agreed to set up a joint ministerial commission to further develop and expand economic, technical, and cultural cooperations between the two countries. The joint ministerial commission, whose meetings to be held regularly and alternately in both countries, will deal with the promotion of cooperation and consultation on matters of mutual interest.

12) President Chon expressed the intention of his government to establish a vocational training institute in the Sudan as a gesture of good will and cooperation of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

13) The two heads of state shared the view that the current visit of President Numayri greatly contributed to promote the friendly and cooperative relations which have been existing between the two countries as well as to further enhance the mutual understanding between the two nations.

14) The Sudanese President Numayri expressed his sincere appreciation for the warm and friendly reception and hospitality rendered to him and his party by the Korean Government and people, and extended an invitation to President Chon to visit the Democratic Republic of the Sudan at his convenience. President Chon accepted the invitation with pleasure and the time of the visit will be fixed at a later date.

TANZANIA'S JUMBE MAKES STOPOVER IN KHARTOUM

JN211201 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Mar (SUNA) -- Tanzanian Vice President Aboud Mwinyi Jumbe made a 1-hour stopover at Khartoum airport at 0230 today. He had a short talk with Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak, who received him at the airport. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and means to promote them.

Jumbe has left Khartoum for Nigeria on a visit of several days. He has arrived in Khartoum from Cairo after participating in the celebrations on the millenium anniversary of Al-Azhar. He also met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

ETHIOPIA

SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S NEWS CONFERENCE REPORTED

EA182043 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] The Soviet ambassador to Ethiopia has said that the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community are countering the imperialist policy of militarism and aggression with the policy of peace, strengthening people's security, and prevention of a nuclear war.

Comrade Konstantin Fomichenko made the statement at a press conference he gave in Addis Ababa yesterday on the question of the preservation of peace and disarmament and relaxation of international tension. He said that the peace program for the 1980's adopted by the 26th Congress of the CPSU and successive Soviet peace initiatives provide ample opportunities for normalization of the international political climate, for a reverse from confrontation to mutually beneficial cooperation. Comrade Fomichenko pointed out that the Soviet Union was the only nuclear power in the world which has assumed the distinct and clear commitment not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and suggested that the other nuclear powers should follow the example.

COPWE OFFICIAL BRIEFS VISITING SOVIET 18 MAR

EA192211 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Comrade (Lema Gutema), COPWE [Commission for Organizing the Party of Workers of Ethiopia] Central Committee member and Addis Ababa COPWE representative, and Comrade Vlasov, CPSU Central Committee member and first secretary of the party of the Checheno-Ingush autonomous republic, today held talks on work experience.

Comrade (Lema Gutema) briefed Comrade Vlasov on the founding of Addis Ababa, the city's role as mediator prior to the upsurge of our revolution, the movements of the residents before the revolution, and its revolutionary contributions following the revolution. He also briefed him on the efforts made to establish the Addis Ababa COPWE and the victories won after its formation.

For his part, Comrade Vlasov said he was pleased with the briefing and had learned more about the functions of the Addis Ababa COPWE. He said that during his brief stay in Addis Ababa he had noticed that its residents were actively participating in various fields.

KENYA

AGREEMENT ON PRC LOAN FOR SPORTS COMPLEX SIGNED

EA191612 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Kenya has signed an agreement with China outlining accounting procedures for a 420-million-shillings Chinese loan given to Kenya in 1980 for the construction of a sports complex at Kasarani, Nairobi.

Signing the agreement yesterday, the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Mr Harry Mule, said Kenya appreciates the assistance offered by the Beijing government and expressed the hope that the sports complex will assist Kenyan athletes to improve thier performance in sports.

Speaking at the same ceremony, the Chinese ambassador to Kenya, Mr Yang Kening, who signed for his government, expressed satisfaction with the progress of the project. He said the cooperation existing between Kenya and China was fruitful.

SOMALIA

DISSIDENTS CLAIM ARMY OFFICERS KILLED IN BOMBING

EA212048 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] The 3d General Gabayreh Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] wing of the Somali opposition forces has blown up the officers mess of Barre's forces at Lugh. The 3d General Gabayreh Division of the DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces reports that the action on 3 March 1983 left two officers dead and a number of others wounded. The DFSS forces suffered no casualities in the action.

DFSS ON BBC 17 MAR REPORT: 'BLATANT LIES'

LD182135 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] A spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] wing of the Somali opposition forces has vehemently refuted as blatant unfounded lies the report carried by the BBC program "Focus on Africa" yesterday. The report quoted a dispatch by an official of the Mogadishu regime's Ministry of Information. The concocted lies by the dispatch released over the BBC said that some members of the DFSS have taken advantage of the amnesty given by Mohamed Siad Barre's regime and returned home.

The DFSS spokesman described the BBC report as blatant lies and cheap propaganda aimed at creating doubts and mistrust among the general public of Somalia who are struggling to topple the fascist regiem of Mohamed Siad Barre. The spokesman added that recently the BBC has aired shameful reports misleading to international opinion against the Somali opposition forces, which proves that it directly serves the interests of the fascist regime led by Mohamed Siad Barre.

The DFSS spokesman added that some individuals have been sent to spy and create confusion among the members and bases of the opposition forces, and that these people have failed in their mission. Some of these individuals have since fled back to their bases to escape capture by the DFSS forces.

The spokesman also touched on the so-called amnesty, saying it is nothing but a sugar-coated mischievous plan broadcast by Mohamed Siad Barre's media aimed at cheating the Somali masses and their sympathizers. The spokesman further reminded the world that those who need amnesty are the thousands of Somalis who are languishing in the torture chambers of Mohamed Siad Barre's dictatorial regime. The spokesman concluded by saying that Siad Barre himself is the one who should seek amnesty and pardon from the Somali people for the treacherous crimes he has committed against the state during his misrule of Somalia.

PRESIDENT BANS IMPORTATION, CULTIVATION OF QAT

EA192156 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre today issued a decree banning the importation and cultivation of qat in Somalia.

In cognizance of Article 69 of the Somali Constitution, of the fact that qat is known worldwide as a drug that gradually has a great effect on the general public, and aware that it is imperative to act against anything adversely affecting the general health, economic activity, and family life of Somali society, SDR President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre has issued a decree banning the importation and cultivation of qat in the SDR. In view of the great effect that qat has on the Somali people and at the advice of the Council of Ministers, President of the SDR Challe Mohamed Siad Barre has today issued a decree banning qat.

TANZANIA

DAR ES SALAAM: PILOT, TECHNICIANS DEFECT

EA181405 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] We have just received reports from our newsroom to the effect that a light aircraft of the Tanzanian People's Force took off without authorization from Mtwara early yesterday morning and landed in Moroni, in the Comoros.

A statement issued by the Foreign Ministry says the aircraft left Mtwara at 0640 and landed in Morini at 0815 Comoros time. The aircraft was piloted by a trainee pilot, (Pascal Maganga Nsuki), with five technicians on board.

The statement explains that immediately after the arrival of the aircraft in Morni the Comoros Government informed the Government of Tanzania about the incident. The statement says: The Government of Comoros explained that the six people had requested permission to remain in the country. The statement says: The government is carrying out a legal investigation against [as heard] the individuals in question.

UGANDA

MUWANGA ON WIPING OUT BANDITRY IN 2 MONTHS

EA181906 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Vice President Paulo Muwanga has assured the country of the government's determination to wipe out banditry in the country in 2 months' time. He told a rally at (Kawangale) in Sese Islands yesterday that the government has scored tremendous success in fighting banditry and thuggery, adding that a few pockets of insecurity remaining in Bulemezi country will soon be brought under control.

Mr Muwanga again commended the people of Masaka District in general and Sese Islands in particular for maintaining peace and security in their areas. He thanked the member of Parliament for Masaka east, Mr John Kawanga, for not inciting the people he represents into banditry and thuggery, as had happened in the districts of Mpigi and Luwero.

The vice president called on Ugandans to respect the verdict of the masses during the last general elections by being loyal to the ruling party and government. Earlier he met elders and the UPC [Uganda People's Congress] District Executive Committee with whom he discussed various matters regarding economic development on the islands.

CHAD

ANTI-LIBYAN DEMONSTRATION STAGED IN NDJAMENA

AB2116l4 Paris AFP in French 1240 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 21 Mar (AFP) -- Many thousands of people today demonstrated in the streets of Ndjamena against "Libya's policy on Chad," denouncing the occupation of the Aouzou Strip, 150,000 square kilometers in the north of Chad occupied by Libya since 1973. The demonstration was organized by the "People's Committee of the FAN," an organization affiliated to the Command Council of the FAN [CCFAN] of Hissein Habre, president of Chad.

On approximately 12 placards carried by demonstrators were slogans like "France must cease its obscure game and reveal its position on Libyan aggression against Chad," or "The Arab states must clarify their position in the Chad-Libyan conflict," or "No new borders for Chad." In their protest note, the organizers of the demonstration asked the Chadian Government "to mobilize all human, material, and political resources" to defend Chad in its territorial integrity.

The OAU, the organizers add, should insure the application of the provisions of its charter under which all member states undertake to respect colonial borders. "Libya has militarily occupied an important part of Chad for more than 10 years," Mbaiasbe Abdou, president of the National Consultative Council [CNC], affirmed, representing the head of state at the demonstration. "To continue its expansion beyond the occupied region and conquer all of Chad, Tripoli sometimes uses some Chadians under the banner of religion, and sometimes under a so-called revolution," Mr Mbaiasbe added.

The president of the CNC, a kind of Chadian parliament, said that the Ndjamena government "pledges before the Chadian people to do everything in its power to safeguard the independence, sovereignty, and the territorial integrity of the country." Members of the Chadian Government, the CNC, and the CCFAN were present at the demonstration, the second to be held in Ndjamena against Libya since last January.

Chad has lodged a complaint against Libya for its "aggression against Chad" with the UN Security Council.

GUNT COMMUNIQUE ON HABRE'S 18 MAR UN APPEAL

AB2121l4 Bardai Chadian National Radio (Anti-Habre) in French 1820 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Transitional National Union Government communique on Hissein Habre's appeal to UN Security Council on Chad-Libya border dispute issued in Bardai on 18 March 1983]

[Text] Following Hissein Habre's complaint lodged at the UN Security Council, the GUNT [Transitional National Union Government] presidency wants to make the following clarifications:

Hissein Habre, who was planted in Ndjamena on 7 June 1982 by international imperialism, notably U.S. imperialism with the complicity of the inter-African peacekeeping force sent by the OAU, knows that he enjoys no legitimacy empowering him to commit the Chadian people at the UN Security Council. Unlike Hissein Habre and his FAN that the Western media are trying to provide with some sort of legitimacy, the GUNT and Chadian people won their legitimacy through the Lagos accords. This legitimacy was confirmed by the OAU resolutions in Nairobi.

Hissein Habre is a rebel who has no power at all to commit Chad. So, the complaint he has lodged at the United Nations is null and void.

That complaint is nothing but an imperialist design aimed at hiding the FAN's real difficulties in the national liberation struggle which the GUNT is waging all over the Chadian territory. It is also aimed at covering the dictatorial practices materialized in genocidal and barbaric acts against the innocent population whose sole weapon is mass exodus to Chad's neighboring countries. The deceitful allegations contained in the FAN's complaint result from mere imagination. It is only a futile maneuver aimed at internationalizing the Chadian conflict. In this connection, the GUNT invites the United Nations and the international media to visit the zones under GUNT control. They will realize that only the national liberation forces are fighting Hissein Habre's troops.

Issued at Bardai on 18 March 1983. [Signed] On behalf of the GUNT president by the vice president

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

OPPOSITION FORMS 12-MEMBER GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE

AB181650 Paris AFP in English 1430 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Paris, March 18 (AFP) -- Opponents of the Government of Equatorial Guinea today announced here the appointment of a 12-member provisional government-in-exile, the "Executive Reorganization Council". The council, which was set up by the Democratic Rally for the Liberation of Equatorial Guinea [RDLGE], is headed by RDLGE Chairman Manuel-Ruben N'dongo, who takes the title of "coordinator".

The aims of the council are to "hasten the liberation process, right the economic and social situation, restore fundamental liberties, fight vandalism and corruption, and apply international aid honestly and efficiently." The two other leading members of the council, which includes three women, are Ricardo Ehoma, "vice-coordinator responsible for justice and restoring democracy," and former Senate President Moises Mba Ada who takes the title of prime minister.

Co-ordinator:	Manuel Ruben N'dongo, 36
Deputy coordinator responsible for justice and restoration of democracy:	Ricardo Ehoma, 42, textile engineer
Prime minister, also responsible for defence and security:	Andres Moises Mba Ada, 47, economist and former speaker of the Senate
Minister for external liaison, cooperation and information:	Andres Menga Mengue, 36, telecommunications technician
Minister for territorial administration and decentralization:	Gregorio Sabueha, 34, economist
Minister for the civil service, employment, administrative reform:	Dorotea Okmo, 35, teacher
Minister for land improvement and economic affairs:	Antonio Ntutumu Obono, 35, teacher of French
Minister for urban planning, housing, environment, public works and transport:	Antonio Sibacha Buecheku, 37, journalist
Minister for health, social security and women's rights:	Joaquina Ikako Moadakuku, 33, teacher of Spanish
Minister for education, youth, culture and sport:	Raphael Obiang Nzogho, 48, surgeon
Minister for natural resources, trade and tourism:	Basilio Oko, 40, gynecologist
Government secretary general:	Teresita N'gouba, 39, teacher of Spanish
Minister plenipotentiary:	Augustin Eshono Nguerre, 50, former sportsman

GHANA

TRIBUNAL CHARGES TWO WITH AIDING COUP PLOTTER

AB182048 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Two more persons have been charged for aiding Lieutenant Colonel Korah to leave the country, thereby enabling him to avoid arrest. They are Mrs Veronica Idana and Alhaji Mumuni Amadu Baba, a senior clerk of the state insurance corporation. Only Ahaji Mumuni Baba appeared before the tribunal chaired by Mr Addo Aikins. He pledged not guilty; Mrs Idana is at large.

The special public prosecutor, Mr Amonoo-Monney, said the case is related to the trial of 24 persons charged last Tuesday in connection with the 23 November coup attempt against the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council]. He said Mrs Idana, after the failure of the coup plot, also assisted in providing refuge for Lt. Col. Korah knowing very well his identity at the time. Mr Amonoo-Monney said Mrs Idana requested Ahaji Mumuni Baba to convey Lt. Col. Korah to a house in Aberka, a suburb of Accra. He obliged and drove Lt. Col. Korah to the house of Yayaya Seidu, the pharmacist who has already been charged.

ALL ADULTS IN ASHANTI REGION TO GET RATION CARDS

AB182055 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] All citizens above 18 years in the Ashanti region are to be issued with ration cards for the purchase of specified goods. The issue of ration cards is in line with the new government policy of distribution of commodities solely through community shops and under the supervision of PDC's [people's defense committees].

Briefing newsmen on the new policy in Kumasi, the Ministry of Trade representative in Kumasi, Mr Akuffo-Owoo, said its main objective is to ensure fairness in the distribution of goods. He said as from next week the opening of community and people's shops throughout the region will start and the various PDC's have been directed to compile lists of all adults in their areas to be issued with the cards which will be sold at a price to be determined by the people themselves. Mr Akuffo-Owoo said goods allocated to each district will be distributed by a committee under the chairmanship of a district secretary.

PNDC TAKES FIRST STEPS TO NATIONALIZE MEDICINE

AB190826 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] The Ministry of Health has directed that private clinic and hospitals without full-time registered practitioners should close down with immediate effect. In addition, any registered medical practitioner found operating more than one clinic will be severely dealt with. This was announced in a radio and television broadcast last night by the secretary for health, Dr Charles Bwedu, on the health situation in Ghana. He asked the existing clinics and hospitals with full-time medical practitioners to continue with their practice but they should submit fresh applications for reregistration. Private maternity homes are advised to restrict their practice to midwifery. Dr Bwedu said these measures are first steps towards nationalization, adding that although it has not been the intention of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] to abolish private clinics, maternity homes, and pharmacies, the time has come when the situation in the private sector should be properly organized.

Dr Bwedu said there has been an overconcentration of private clinics and pharmacies in the towns, thereby neglecting the rural community who are catered for by quacks. He said as a result of the multiplicity of private pharmacies, drugs are being sold on the market by people who have neither authority nor the professional training to do so. It is therefore clear that the private health sector appears to operate more for profit motives than anything like helping the people. Dr Bwedu said the anomalies in the private health sector have led to the high cost of drugs and wondered how ordinary people are able to buy them. He said the private sector also encourages pilfering from the shelves of the government hospitals, thus increasing the profit margins of the private sector.

It is therefore necessary for the Ministry of Health to be involved in the distribution, regulation, and integration of the public sector in order to ensure a fair distribution of amenities throughout the country. Dr Bwedu said another area of concern is the overseas aspect of the nation's health services, which from 1977 to 1982 consumed about 8 million cedis. This amount could have been used to buy vital equipment for local specialists to treat cases, adding that it could have been the system of providing funds for treatment abroad has been saddled with fraud, with some patients receiving more money for living expenses than medical expenses and in some cases, a patient could be accompanied by more than three persons, all of whom draw heavy sums in respect of living expenses. But in 1982, after identifying the extent of misuse of government funds in this aspect of health, the system was reviewed. At present, all cases are assessed by a board of medical specialists before recommendations are made for a patient to travel. The result has been a decrease in the expenditure for 1982 when about 820,000 cedis was spent. The figure for 1981 was 3.9 million cedis.

ACCRA: GHANAIANS STILL TRY TO GO TO NIGERIA

AB2117s0 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] More Ghanaians are anxious to travel to Nigeria despite that country's expulsion of illegal immigrants from ECOWAS member states 2 months ago. It will be recalled that Ghanaians were the majority of those affected by the quit order and it cost the Ghana Government about 45 million cedis to evaucate them from Nigeria.

A GBC [Ghana Broadcasting Corporation] correspondent says at the Nigerian high commission in Accra there are always long queues of Ghanaians waiting to obtain the necessary documents to enable them to stay in Nigeria but most of them leave disappointed as they cannot fulfill the conditions for obtaining work permits. The conditions include the production of expatriate quotas, certificates, and introductory and appointment letters from Nigerian employers. Some of those interviewed by our correspondent, however, explained that they wanted to go to Nigeria to finalize arrangements for the return of their belongings. The story was no different at the offices of the Ghana Airways at Adabraka in Accra where passengers queued up for tickets. Officials of the airline were tightlipped over the number of Ghanaians booked to travel to Nigeria. It is believed that many of those who intend to leave for Nigeria would go by land should the Togolese authorities reopen their side of the border at Aflao.

IVORY COAST

YAMOUSSOUKRO NAMED NEW NATIONAL CAPITAL

AB2206l6 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Excerpts] A new page in Ivory Coast's history has just been turned. Beginning today, Abidjan is no longer the capital of our country.

This function will now be assumed by Yamoussoukro, the head of state's hometown. In fact, the members o. parliament this evening adopted the bill to this effect which was submitted by the government. Now that the bill has been passed into law, the transfer procedures will be determined in a decree adopted by the Council of Ministers. Our country henceforth changes its capital for the fourth [as heard] time in its existence; Bingerville took over from Grand-Bassam in 1900; Abidjan in 1933 and Yamoussoukro in 1982. During the extraordinary session, the speaker of the National Assembly spoke of the bill on the transfer of the capital as a major achievement.

[Begin Konan Bedie recording] The proposed transfer of our capital was prompted by the desire to achieve great work as part of our faith and determination to master, to lead, and to organize the nation's fate. As the nation's representatives, in full display of authority and will, in totally free judgement and in accordance with our institutions, we must promptly hail the transfer of our capital to a new sanctuary where the torch of national trust will continue to burn and to open new prospects for our renewal and progress. [end recording]

Later, the minister of interior spoke on the reasons for the transfer.

[Begin Leon Konan Koffi recording] The choice of Yamoussoukro as the Ivory Coast's capital is neither prompted by the feelings between President Houphouet-Boigny and his people -- even if such feelings are very strong -- nor by the heart. In fact, the state's affairs have no relationship with the impulse of the heart. On the contrary, the choice is the result of thorough reflection. Why do we change? Why do we abandon Abidjan, the pearl of the lagoons, the object of our pride and the magnificant showcase of the Ivory Coast's openness to the world, which is envied by many people and which has until now met our needs? The answer is simple and almost damning: Abidjan is a victim of its own success. In 1950, there were 50,000 [as heard] inhabitants in Abidjan. In 1983, there are 2 million inhabitants, four times [as heard] its population in 33 years. [end recording]

PARTY LEADERS DISMISSED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

AB211222 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 0745 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Henceforth, within the party, no unscrupulousness or embezzlement will be tolerated or be allowed to go unpunished. The leaders are resolved to track down these dishonest militants. This is what happened yesterday. An energetic crackdown has just been effected in seven sections of the party. Their secretaries general were guilty of embezzlement. They kept all or part of the amounts of money they realized from the sale of the party's cards. They were totally dismissed from their functions and asked to repay the amounts of money embezzled. If they fail to do this, they will be prosecuted. They are the secretaries general of the sections where the member of the Executive Committee of the Political Bureau visited yesterday. They are seven in number: Bouafle, Zoukoukpo, Daloa, Jacquesville, Prikro, Betie, and Bouake I.

Before their dismissal, the charges leveled against them were made known to the militants, for example at Bouake I where Minister Jean-Konan Banny visited.

[Begin Banny recording]

Considering the report of Pierre Koffi N'guessan, an inspector of the party, considering the decision of the seminar of the secretaries general, having listened to N'guessan N'dri, secretary general of the Bouake I section, considering that N'guessan N'dri constantly collected 50,000 cards in the year 1981 totaling 25 million CFA francs and 20,000 cards in 1982 totaling 10 million CFA francs -- all totaling 35 million CFA francs, considering that he deposited at the party headquarters 3 million CFA francs for 1981 and nothing for 1982 considering consequently that he owes 32 million CFA francs;

the president, considering that the events mentioned above constitute an embezzlement, considering that it is appropriate to discourage such a practice after deliberating on the issue upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, has decided to dismiss N'Guessan N'dri from his functions and duties as the secretary general of Bouake I section, ordered the reimbursement of the total sum misappropriated, and if he does not respect this decision, N'guessan N'dri will be prosectured in the courts of the Ivory Coast. [end recording]

It was thus a true scandal and the party has hit very hard because seven secretaries general of sections were dismissed -- serious dismissals which are the outcome of a check made some months ago by the inspectors of the party.

LIBERIA

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT DISMISSED FOR 'MALFEASANCE'

AB180911 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Lofa County superintendent Maj Jonah Akoei has been dismissed. He was dismissed by the head of state after being found guilty of malfeasance and ignoring government policy of seeking the welfare and interests of the people of Lofa. It can be recalled, Major Akoei suspended the mayor of the city of Voinjama (Setrid Govowoli) who accused him of misusing funds entrusted for development purposes. The head of state has directed the minister of internal affaris to reinstate Mr (Govowoli) as mayor of the city of Voinjama. The head of state has also directed the minister of justice to arrest and persecute the former superintendent of Lofa, Major Akoei. He was also to be audited by the auditor general of Liberia. Meanwhile, the new superintendent for Lofa County has been appointed. He is Maj Gavfloyd Johnson, former city mayor of the Monrovia City Corporation. He was appointed by the head of state with the advice and consent of the People's Redemption Council. Col William Schneider, former commander of the (Todi) Military Academy, has also been appointed mayor of the Monrovia City Corporation.

DOE FIRES LPRC SECURITY FORCE IN OIL SCANDAL

AB180951 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Head of State Commander in Chief [CIC] Doe has dismissed the entire security force at the Liberia Petroleum Refinary Company [LPRC] in Gardnersville, near Monrovia. The LPRC security force of nearly 65 members will be replaced by a contingent of the Joint Security Force until a new security force has been organized to protect the refinery. Chairman Doe gave the dismissal order today when he visited the refinery. Dr Doe said his personal investigation revealed that LPRC security force was very weak and that it habitually connived with certain individuals to steal petroleum products from the refinery. Head of State Doe said he personally arrested certain individuals last night with more then 300 gallons of gasoline stolen from the refinery. He, however, declined to name those arrested because he said investigation was continuing into the case.

En route to the executive mansion, Commander in Chief Doe also made a brief stopover in Pennsville where the stolen gasoline was shown to journalists who traveled with him from the Liberia news agency, LINA. Head of State Doe was met on arrival at the refinery by the LPRC general manager, Wilfred (Astra).

In a speech to the nation yesterday shortly after his arrival from the Seventh Nonaligned Summit in New Delhi, Dr Doe assured the nation that he would personally investigate the root causes of the gasoline problem and effect changes where necessary. Observers see the dismissal of the entire LPRC security force as an initial move in this direction.

In another development, the head of state has ordered all those indebted to the LPRC to pay their due within 1 week. He said the failure of those concerned to settle their indebtedness will result in the confiscation of their properties without delay. He said this is the last warning he is giving to the debtors to the refinery. In all 34 companies are to be indebted to the oil refinery. Others who have not met their financial obligations to the refinery are being warned to do so without delay. They are Cuttington University College, National Ports Authority, station ELWA, and the Montserrado group of companies. The head of state has also ordered that those companies listed should be prevented from lifting products until they settle their accounts. He noted that the lifting of gasoline should be done only by authorized and financially up-to-date customers. He also advised that members of the council, the Cabinet, and officials of government must stop recommending people to the refinery for gasoline distribution. Dr Doe noted that the tendency persists whereby officials of government attempt to obstruct the endorcement of collection of debts for the refinery by the ministry of justice. He said the managing director of LPRC and the minister of justice should submit to his office the name of anyone recommending individuals for distributorship and obstructing the payment of their indebtedness to the refinery.

Retires Presidential Affairs Minister

AB212027 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] The minister of state for presidential affairs, Dr Harry T. Nayou, has been retired by Head of State Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe. The head of state said he was taking the decision based on Minister Nayou's ill health and his inability to actively control the affairs of the Ministry of State.

Dr Doe said his decision to investigate the hierarchy at the Executive Mansion was based on the tendency by the minister, the deputy, and assistant ministers to involve themselves in matters beyond their scope of activities. He said that after 8 hours of the investigation, he concluded that Minister Nayou was not in control of affairs at the Ministry of State and thus poor administration ensured.

He said the People's Redemption Council [PRC] is appreciative to Minister Nayou for the contributions he made to the PRC during his tenure. Meanwhile, Dr Doe said that the deputy and assistant minister should return to work as there has been no sufficient evidence so far to implicate them in the gasoline situation.

Yesterday, the head of state temporarily suspended the minister of state and all deputy and assistant ministers at the Executive Mansion to probe into their possible involvement in the gasoline situation.

NIGERIA

INFLUX OF ALIENS REPORTED TO BE 'UNRESTRAINED'

AB200914 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] In Nigeria, the influx of aliens into the country has been reported as being unrestrained. Immigration sources at border posts said the officials are ill-equipped to stop the influx of illegal aliens, border touts, and smugglers. Hundreds of aliens from neighboring countries are said to be bringing in batteries, tins of tomato puree, and other undeclared packages. Security officials have also stated that they could not stop them because they were not armed for such a task, adding that lack of electricity supply contributed to the handicap in checking the influx.

Paper on Illegal Aliens

AB211025 Lagos International Service in English 0530 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The MORNING FOCUS is worried by reports that illegal aliens who recently thrust out of Nigeria are already flooding into the country. Regretting that the immigration officers at the borders are not doing their jobs effectively, the paper appeals to the Federal Government to make a statement on the orderly developments. However, the FOCUS advises the Nigerian High Commission in Accra to be extra vigilant in scrutinizing any document purported to guarantee jobs for any of these aliens in Nigeria.

SHAGARI WELCOMES BULGARIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

AB190942 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] The president, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, has praised Bulgaria for her positive contributions to economic development in Nigeria and for the struggle against neocolonialism and racism in Africa. Welcoming the Bulgarian deputy prime minister, Mr Grigor Stoichkov, who paid a courtesy visit at State House yesterday, President Shagari said Nigeria and Bulgaria shared common interests and views on various international issues, including the need for world peace and disarmament. The president recalled his state visit to Bulgaria last year which afforded him the opportunity to observe the tremendous development which has taken place in that country. He said since his visit to that country, economic, technical and other areas of cooperation between the two countries have been identified and various projects earmarked upon. President Shagari observed that Bulgarian entrepreneurs have made praiseworthy contributions to progress Nigeria, especially in the construction industry and expressed the hope that this involvement would continue, especially in the area of agricultural development which is the primary objective of his government.

Mr Stoichkov, who delivered to the president a special message from his Bulgarian counterpart, Mr Todor Zhivkov, told the president that the meeting of the joint technical commission has (?emerged) fruitful. He added that a new era of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries had now opened as a result of agreements reached at the meeting.

PRIVATE SECTOR COOPERATION WITH PRC SOUGHT

AB172132 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Nigeria wants her cooperation with China to be extended to the private sector and individuals. The vice president, Dr Alex Ekwueme, expressed this desire today in Guangzhou, China, at a banquet held in his honor by the vice governor of the province, Liang Weilin. He said that economic cooperation shall not be between governments alone but shall directly involve the people of both countries.

The vice president remarked that his 1-week visit to China had helped in cementing relations between the two nations and hoped that will spur an exchange of visits between citizens of both countries. Before arriving in Guangzhou today, Dr Ekwueme inspected some industrial projects in Shanghai.

COMOROS

AFP: SIX TANZANIAN 'AIRMEN' SEEK ASYLUM

AB180838 Paris AFP in English 0822 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Moroni, Mar 18 (AFP) -- A group of Tanzanian airmen has fled to the Comoros Republic and requested political asylum, it was learned here today. The six airmen crash-landed a Tanzanian Cessna 310 at Moroni airport yesterday without requesting landing permission. Sources here said that the Comoros Government did not want to grant the fugitives asylum and had informed the Tanzanian Government about the affair. Officials were said to be seeking further information about the flight from Tanzania. The Comoros Republic consists of a group of islands in the Indian Ocean off the coast of east Africa.

The Tanzanian authorities recently arrested several people, including a number of army officers, on subversion charges.

MAURITIUS

FINANCE MINISTER, PARTY CHIEF, OTHERS RESIGN

AB221216 Paris AFP in English 1211 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Port Louis, March 22 (AFP) -- Eleven members of the Mauritian Government, including Finance Minister and ruling party chief Paul Berenger have resigned. It was the second time Mr Berenger had resigned from the 18-member left-wing coalition of his own Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM) and the Socialist Party since the left took all the seats in Parliament in the June 1982 general elections. The government crisis caused by Mr Berenger's first resignation last June was settled after a week of talks between the two coalition partners.

The mass resignation was triggered by last night's dismissal of the director of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, General Gaetan Essoo, who found himself at the centre of a controversy over the use of the Creole language on television on his appointment last summer.

Among the 11 ministers who resigned was Foreign Minister Jean-Paul de L'Estrac. Nine of the outgoing ministers belonged to the dominant party in the coalition government, the Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM), while the other two were from the Mauritian Socialist Party (PSM), the coalition's junior partner, who were politically close to the MMM. The former ministers stay on as deputies in the legislature.

NAMIBIA

COMMUNIQUE SAYS 24 SWAPO TERRORISTS KILLED

MB211853 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] The latest communique issued by the headquarters of the South-West Africa Territory Force in Windhoek says that a further 24 SWAPO terrorists were killed in operations in the north of the country over the weekend. The security force lost three men during the same period. This brings the casualties inflicted on the insurgents since their current incursion began last month to 227. Seven of the terrorists and the three soldiers died in the clash at Tshandi in western Ovambo. Fifteen insurgents were killed in another clash, and two others were tracked down and shot near Kamanjab in the farming area south of the Etosha game reserve. The operations are continuing.